



Daily Report

Latin America

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Rio Group Urges Ban on Money Laundering

PY0603182091 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
23 Feb 91 p 1

[Text] The Rio Group interparliamentary conference has urged governments all over the world to ban the circulation of money that comes from laundering drug trafficking dollars.

This call is included in one of the various resolutions approved by the conference, which was held in Cochabamba between 20 and 22 February.

The Rio Group members decided to support the alternative development policies promoted by the countries that produce the raw materials used for the illegal production of drugs.

The group also urged the international community to strongly support the economic efforts necessary to implement those programs.

The group urged the countries which consume the largest amounts of illegal drugs to intensify efforts aimed at reducing demand and banning the circulation of drug trafficking money.

The resolution approved during yesterday's closing session has three subheads. Under the first subhead, the resolution notes that the subregion should urgently return to its traditional levels of growth. The resolution calls for a significant reduction of the transfer of financial resources abroad for debt payments, thus reversing what happened in the past decade when Latin America became a net exporter of capital.

The resolution mentions the debtor countries of smaller relative development and calls for "special treatment" for them.

The resolution maintains that the debt problem is a political issue that goes beyond economic and financial considerations. In this regard, the resolution calls for an urgent agreement between governments, banks, and international credit agencies, to work out a "final equitable solution" to the problem.

The Rio Group representatives strongly condemned the farm subsidies that developed countries grant, because such subsidies hinder the sale of Latin American products and strongly impair the terms of exchange.

The document stated that it is paradoxical that developed countries speak of cooperation with developing nations while at the same time subsidizing their farm products.

Another resolution expresses solidarity with the Peruvian Government and people over the cholera epidemic affecting that sister nation.

Concerning the Persian Gulf war, the conference urged the United Nations to continue making diplomatic efforts to end this conflict.

The conference also declared that peace in the Middle East will always be unstable if the sovereignty of all the states of the region is not respected and if the Palestinian problem is not rapidly resolved.

Opposed to Farm Subsidies

PY0603191691 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
24 Feb 91 p 5

[Text] The Rio Group Interparliamentary Support Group has denounced and rejected the subsidies granted by industrialized countries on their products because it affects the sale of Latin American products and greatly impairs the terms of trade.

The Latin American countries' rejection was approved at the first conference of the interparliamentary group held in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 February. The delegates indicated that it is contradictory for the developed countries to announce at international meetings their desire to cooperate with the developing countries in overcoming obstacles to development, and at the same time to implement \$200 billion in agricultural subsidies annually to the detriment of the economies they propose to help.

By subsidizing their agricultural products, the industrialized countries are really worsening the problems of large rural sectors by condemning them to inhumane living conditions. Therefore, the interparliamentary group approved a resolution requesting that the national congresses of this regional organization call on their governments to propose jointly and in a coordinated manner to the industrialized countries the lifting as soon as possible of the subsidies on their agricultural products, thus allowing the developing countries to be competitive in selling their products.

The group also proposed that joint decisions be made regarding other regions which are hardly predisposed to offer an equitable treatment on trade. In this regard the interparliamentary group made the following recommendations:

- a. That trade offices of the Rio Group countries be established in the EEC, the United States, and Japan.
- b. That joint action be carried out before the U.S. Congress, the EEC, and the European Parliament to gain, within the GSP [Generalized System of preferences], better conditions for our agricultural products.

Creation of Southern Cone Market Set for 26 Mar

PY0903160891 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
7 Mar 91 p 13

[Text] It has been confirmed that the Treaty of Asuncion, in which the Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) will be created, will be signed on 26 March. A press communiqué that was released this morning by the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry states that the treaty will

be signed by Paraguayan President General Andres Rodriguez, Argentine President Carlos Menem, Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello, and Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera during a ceremony in Asuncion.

BCIE Official Says Funds Low, Denies Bankruptcy

*PA0503162091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1458 GMT 2 Mar 91*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rica's Federico Alvarez, president of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE), said today that the institution is not "bankrupt" even though its associates owe approximately \$1 billion.

"The bank is not bankrupt even though it does have a low liquidity reserve which must be overcome," it was emphasized by Alvarez, who is participating in the fifth meeting between the BCIE and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) at Tegucigalpa this week end.

Alvarez said that the Central American governments have stated their "political willingness" to pay their accrued debt with the BCIE, but some of them are having critical internal problems which do not allow this.

Alvarez said that Honduras is one of the countries that strives the most to fulfill its financial obligations, and it makes periodic payments despite its economic problems.

The BCIE, founded early in the 1960s, is currently sponsoring an economic stabilization program which includes obtaining funds from associates outside the region and collecting accrued debts.

Andean Group Ministers Discuss Communications

*PY0403160891 Lima RTP Television Network
in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Mar 91*

[Text] The need to improve the communication services of the Andean countries' state companies was emphasized today during a working meeting of the Andean Group transportation ministers at the headquarters of the Cartagena Accord Board.

Privatization seems to be the only chance to resurrect state telecommunications companies, which are in bad shape due to incorrect policies and subsidies for their services, which prevent them from obtaining needed resources.

The ministers decided to carry out the first stage of the Andean communications master plan, which over the next 18 months includes strengthening the infrastructure of the Andean Group and establishing the Latin American Fiber Optic Cable Digital Network. The ministers also agreed to use the Intelsat satellite system because it will represent a savings of \$160 million.

[Begin recording] [Ricardo Herrera, secretary general of the Andean Group state companies group] During the meeting the ministers acknowledged the need to strengthen all the telecommunications companies and fulfill the people's demands and improve service. The ministers were also able to see the progress being made on this front by the telecommunications companies in our countries. Additionally, the ministers evaluated the important agreement reached by the Andean Group state telecommunications companies to find a solution to the Andean satellite communications system by accepting a very interesting offer for the subregion from Intelsat.

[Unidentified reporter] Has the Condor Project system been postponed for another time?

[Herrera] The Condor Project system, aimed at establishing our own satellite system, the so-called Simon Bolivar satellite system, has been postponed but not dismissed. The development of this system has been postponed until we are no longer using the Intelsat system.

[Reporter] What are the benefits of working with Intelsat?

[Herrera] The state companies already belong to the Intelsat system. The benefit of renting the Intelsat system to satisfy our satellite communication needs from 1995 to 2004, instead of having our own satellite system, represents an important savings of more than \$160 million over 10 years. [end recording]

Cuba

Menem Support of Human Rights Decision Criticized

FL0803164591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Former Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has criticized his country's decision to support a resolution, amended under U.S. pressure, to designate a special representative to investigate alleged human rights violations in Cuba since 1988. Caputo warned that it is not possible to become a first world power acting like a weathercock country and questioned the global policy of President Carlos Menem's government.

Caputo said in a press statement that such a policy is based on the belief that Argentina will receive some reward if it goes along with every U.S. initiative. Countries that change their stands like that usually lose a great deal of respect; they are weathercock countries. This hampers their association with highly developed nations, added Caputo referring to Argentina.

Escalona Addresses Letter on Report Back Process

FL0803155591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1255 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has called on delegates and electors to hold an open dialogue free of all formalism during the report back process that will be held in Guantanamo as of 13 March.

In a letter addressed to the presidents of the provincial assemblies, Escalona states that tedious reports filled with figures, which do not always reflect the efforts made by the territories, must be avoided.

The letter was disclosed during a news conference held at the ANPP offices.

* Machado Ventura on Pre-Congress Discussions

91CA0070A Havana GRANMA in Spanish
28 Jan 91 p 3

[Report on interview with Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura by Roger Ricardo Luis at Central Committee headquarters; date not given]

[Text] The preparations for the Fourth Party Congress have entered the home stretch now that the provincial assemblies are being held. Owing to the far-reaching importance that the congress unquestionably has for party members, for all of the people, and for the country's destiny, everything having to do with this grand gathering of Cuban Communists is of great interest.

In a recent interview at the headquarters of the Central Committee, Jose R. Machado Ventura, a member of the Politburo, gave us a rundown of what has been done so far in this direction.

The completion of the municipal assemblies, their main results, and an overview of this major step got the conversation under way:

"There was a constant factor in these municipal assemblies: it was the unanimous, unconditional support for the Revolution, the Party, and its policies. They also demonstrated unity, showing that our members do not suffer from the slightest symptoms of cowardice. Very much to the contrary, they are prepared to tackle the current situation calmly. They do not support this process in a pro-forma way; rather, each member is ready for what has to be done, for how to resolve things in a practical, realistic manner in every location. We could say these meetings debated the summaries of the proposals of each territory in the wake of the Call for the Fourth Congress, that is to say, the specifics of each place, as well as the answers that have already been provided and those that remain to be provided and that are the responsibility of the municipality.

"Another aspect that was analyzed broadly and realistically had to do with carrying out Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's instructions about the special period in peacetime. The most significant thing about this point was that the delegates had a grip on problems in the territories and at their work centers and that accumulated experience was being taken advantage of to find solutions that may emerge as we get farther into this complex stage.

"The struggle against crime, which angers our people and the party members, was another much discussed item on the agenda of the municipal assemblies. It bears noting that the delegates acknowledged in a critical and self-critical manner that the members lack combativeness at certain times and were fully aware that this is a negative phenomenon that we must get rid of immediately.

"The analysis of this issue, which the delegates approached from different angles, highlighted the importance of continuing to strengthen the mechanisms and tools in the merciless struggle against crime, while at the same time taking quick and forceful action against any manifestation of crime as a problem for one and all.

"Obviously, discussion of the report submitted to the assembly was another item on the agenda that gave rise to many speeches. The distinguishing features of this lively discussion were maturity, objectivity, and a mastery of local problems, whereas unrealistic petitions or demands, which were common in previous processes, were conspicuously absent.

"The elections proceeded as expected, in keeping with their new characteristics. The democratic framework was broadened, and of course there were changes. All of this is in response to our members' desire to strengthen the Party's work in the municipalities."

The first provincial assemblies and a preliminary assessment of their results were the second topic of our talk.

"We could say that the substance of these assemblies has been, in a way, similar to that of the municipal assemblies. In other words, very current, high-priority, meaningful issues have been addressed, naturally with different nuances, from different perspectives, in keeping, as would be expected, with the larger territory and with the very makeup of the assembly, inasmuch as representatives of institutions and organizations that help to provide further clarification and information when certain issues are broached are in attendance.

"The conclusion that we can draw from these initial assemblies is that the members have bolstered their determination to tackle the special period, to implement every initiative that will help to resolve the problems that arise from this stage."

Methodological Changes in This Process

The main methodological changes that were introduced in this process were the focus of the party leader's attention during this part of the interview.

"There were methodological changes and others that do not exactly fall under this heading. Among the main changes, however, are the reduction of the number of members of the municipal and provincial committees in a bid for higher quality so that they would not include certain comrades with a great many responsibilities who at times used to be pro-forma members of these bodies.

"In so doing we are also trying to break down so-called representativeness and we are seeking comrades who really have the qualifications and the opportunity to work. This does not mean that the most important sectors are not represented on these committees.

"We reduced the size of the committees because this also facilitates the discussions and the collective analysis of problems and, in general, enhances the climate for debate and exchange of opinions.

"Another element that has been introduced into this process has to do with the involvement of the workers and the people, in one way or another, by familiarizing them with the report submitted to the assembly. In some cases the main points in the document were discussed with the workers, and in others it was publicized over the radio, or the report was published in the press so that the people could get to know it and assess the work of the Party in their territory regarding critical aspects and unresolved situations as well as future work methods and plans.

"We can also indicate that there were no specific guidelines for the selection of candidates, as on other occasions; the quotas by categories are one example. In other words, there were no models when it came to selecting them.

"One of the results was that the number of women on these committees, as well as the number of workers

directly involved in production, declined proportionately. This is not good, and we must pay attention to this matter. Of course one of the reasons for this is that the delegates now select from a list that has more candidates than are to be elected, and the tendency is to vote for the person you know best. The saying that better the devil you know than the one you do not applies here to a degree, though the cases are not exactly the same. By and large, the candidates who discharge some responsibility in the territory are better known. This is an issue to be looked into. An outstanding worker who is very well known at his work place is regrettably not as well known in the municipality, to give one example.

"Another change introduced in this process had to do with the system of elections. The positive vote and more candidates (20 to 25 percent more than the number to be elected) were such features."

On the Candidates

Regarding this issue we told him that people are of the opinion that in this election "a vigorous weeding out process is underway," since three first secretaries were not on the slate of candidates. He told us the following:

"The reason is not that the the weeding out process is underway. The reason, above all, is the application of the cadres policy. Armando Manresa on the Isle of Youth, Humberto Miguel in Cienfuegos, and Roberto Damian Alonso in Granma were all first secretaries in their territories who had many years of successful work behind them. But we understand that after so long in such posts there comes a time when it harms both them and the place itself; so, we decided to apply the policy of renewal. Moreover, should we allow comrades to make mistakes before replacing them?"

Regarding candidacies, we asked Machado Ventura who was involved in drafting the lists and how they were put together.

"In drawing up the slates in the municipalities, they listened to the opinions of the secretaries general of the groups, based on evaluations proposed by the corresponding municipal bureau and prior consultation with the immediately higher level of leadership.

"Once the nominations had been made, they were brought before the groups for analysis; the groups are empowered to make further nominations or to propose removing names. After the rank and file had expressed their views, if any comrades had been nominated by a large number of groups, the municipality evaluated him and decided whether to include him or not. If the proposal was to exclude him, the case was immediately referred back to the group that had nominated him so that the situation could be clarified, and if the arguments were valid, he would not be on the list of candidates."

When asked whether the principle of having some turnover in the committees at the various levels was upheld, he indicated:

"There was turnover, but without specific guidelines. There was broad-mindedness, and we have municipalities in which the turnover was as much as 50 percent.

"In line with the changes that were made, we can also note that on this occasion both the first secretary and the members of the Bureau were elected by secret ballot, whereas they used to be elected openly once committee members were elected by secret, direct ballot. The higher body does the nominating now too, but the ballot also has a larger number of candidates, and a vote for even the first secretary has to be done with two crosses.

"I should emphasize that both the members of the Bureau and whoever turns out to be the highest party leader at the corresponding level must first be chosen by direct, secret ballot for the Committee and then for the the aforementioned posts.

"This election process shows, in the first place, that the members have confidence in the party leadership; it is also additional proof of democracy under the guiding principle of democratic centralism, because it gives the members a chance to elect the people they want and, if they do not agree with someone on the slate, to discuss and argue why he should not be on it.

"This time, the assemblies themselves at each level created and elected working commissions to take care of the cadres policy, which used to be handled by a small number of comrades, and another commission in charge of deciding on income and sanctions. And depending on the most important economic and social activity in each territory, a similar group is elected to handle that. For example, it stands to reason that a municipality like Varadero should have a tourism commission.

"These commissions are made up of members of the respective committees, but activists can also sit on them, if that is desired. Likewise, the committees are empowered to form other commissions, if this is considered necessary, even after the assembly."

Preparations for the Fourth Congress

It has been announced that the Fourth Party Congress will be held during the first half of the year. Machado Ventura also spoke to us about how the preparations for it are coming along, especially the work of the commissions set up for this purpose.

"This is the possible time frame that we are thinking about. Nonetheless, we have to keep a close eye on how the events that are the focus of world concern are unfolding today and how they may affect our nation so that we do not impose a specific date for the Congress on ourselves.

"We can say that the commissions are working hard and that some things have already been implemented and do not have to wait for the Congress, such as the new structure of the Party.

"The commission that is looking into the structure of mass organizations has made some headway, produced some results. It has already discussed whether too many commissions are involved in our mass organizations. There are opinions about the structure of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] and the rest of the organizations.

"The same goes for the commission that is addressing the activities of the People's Government. In this connection there are many ideas and proposals designed to strengthen the authority and vigor of our government bodies. The commission has the views of provinces, delegates, and deputies before it and is studying them.

"As for the commission that is in charge of the Party's work methods and style, as I told you at the beginning of my response, it has already taken a first important step with the introduction of the new structure.

"In this connection we can state that to the extent that this structure works well, the method and style of work will spread. We do not want to theorize about what a work method is and what a work style is, nor do we want to fill out papers that everyone will later want to copy in their territory, because the Party cannot have the same work style and method in Maisi as in Plaza de la Revolution, and that goes for its structure too.

"We want the new structure to be the basis for applying a method and a style in keeping with the actual conditions in each territory; we want the work to get done more smoothly; we want the proper issues to be given priority. We do not want to be buried in papers; we want to aim directly at the problems, because when there are few people to take care of work, you have to learn to prioritize."

Assessment of the Discussion of the Call

We proposed one last issue to Machado Ventura to close our conversation: a preliminary assessment of the results of the discussion of the Call for the Fourth Congress of our Party.

"Hundreds of thousands of opinions have been voiced at these assemblies, and the overwhelming majority of them are in favor of perfecting our socialism. Some of the issues raised have already been taken care of; there was no need to wait for the Congress.

"The things that have to do with the government, state matters, require more analysis and time. They are also being looked into in light of the current situation, the special period, because some issues cannot be addressed for the time being, given the circumstances. What for, if we do not have the resources or if they are not in keeping with current realities? Some of these requests will have to wait until minimal conditions are in place, until there is greater stability.

"Moreover, we have to rely on our own experience and, if it works well, make it last, or otherwise change it. But

all of this requires time so that things can develop and so that we do not make mistakes. In this specific case we are not in a race against time.

"The discussion of the Call was not without mistakes. There was a lack of prior preparation among the Party's rank and file organizations and, in some cases, among the people who directed the assemblies at the rank and file level. In these cases there was no clarification of certain mistaken, hypercritical, confusion-creating views that are incompatible with our principles; there were no responses to complex proposals, such as the free campesino market, because there are still some who think that this is a solution. Yet there was no clarifying response that far from being a solution, the free campesino market was divorcing the campesino more and more from the land; that a swarm of middlemen and charlatans has appeared, and that this was a solution only to a tiny percentage of the people's food needs, besides which the people were being exploited by high prices that helped to make some individuals rich.

"There were also those who took advantage of this forum to say things out of context and who did not receive proper answers either, because owing to the lack of preparation people mistakenly thought that all they had to do was listen to all views. This is unacceptable to revolutionaries, who cannot allow anything that harms or tends to cause confusion about the accomplishments of the Revolution to go unchallenged.

"When all is said and done, the most important thing about this process is its very positive bottom line in support of the Party, the Revolution, and the first secretary of our Party, Comrade Fidel. To those who are talking about a plebiscite, it was a plebiscite in favor of socialism, and one with the right of discussion to boot."

Raul Castro Extends Greetings to Cuban Women

*FL0803194891 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, attended a reception held in honor of the DPRK delegation headed by General Choe Kwang, chief of the Army General Staff of the DPRK. The Cuban minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] chatted with the members of the DPRK delegation which has concluded its official visit to Cuba.

Later, Raul bid farewell to the high-ranking DPRK delegation at the Jose Marti International Airport. [passage omitted]

Speaking to journalists a few minutes after the departure of the DPRK delegation, Raul extended greetings to Cuban women on the occasion of International Women's Day.

[Begin Raul Castro recording] On the occasion of International Women's Day, I think of the dozens of nurses

and doctors who are right now in Iraq, who decided to remain in that country during the entire war, no matter the consequences, and who are still there.

I also think of those girls in the Guantanamo antiaircraft artillery regiment, whom I have already mentioned. I think of a border brigade company in front of the base that does guard duty in front of the U.S. posts in the eastern sector. When the chief of staff creates the proper conditions in the western sector, another all-female company will be assigned there so that the Yankees in Guantanamo will know that it is Cuban women who are protecting [passage in distinct] some day will disappear, and of course we hope this will be achieved through peaceful means, that is, the recovery of our entire territory.

I think of all the young women scientists the Cuban revolution has trained, who are involved in tireless activities and whom Fidel has repeatedly praised.

At this time I think of what I said at the Cacahual, when I welcomed the first Cuban Internationalist group that returned from Angola after the signing of the agreements on 22 December in New York at the United Nations—a ceremony that was attended by Comrade Ulises [Rosales del Toro, chief of the FAR general staff]. At that time, I said that the great heroes of this courageous deed are not only those who fell in combat, or those who fulfilled their duties there, but the mothers, sisters, sons, and the widows of those who died, those who in 15 years have never made a single claim.

You must also remember that heroic but painful 7 December when we brought the remains of all the Cuban dead which were buried in ceremonies held simultaneously in all municipalities throughout the country. You must also remember that Angolan President Jose Eduardo [dos Santos] and Comrade Fidel delivered speeches at the Cacahual ceremony.

When I think of all Cuban women from all sectors, I think of that woman whom I believe is the greatest of all Cuban women: Mariana Grajales.

On behalf of the FAR, I wish to extend to all of them our admiration, our greetings, our respect, and of course, our love. [end recording]

Espin Congratulates Women on International Day

*FL0803172291 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1255 GMT 8 Mar 91*

[Statement by Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) and member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, in Venezuela on the occasion of International Women's Day to the "Haciendo Radio" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Espin] I would like to let all Cuban women know that we are always thinking about them and that we are very proud of the role they have played throughout the 32 years of the revolution. We are also

proud of the role they are currently playing during times of peace, during the special period.

For almost one year, women have requested to go where they are needed the most. We are witnessing how women of all ages, who have been in the struggle for many years, who have played a preponderant role in the revolutionary war, are today requesting to be sent to the fields to farm and to participate in those projects where they are needed the most.

We are particularly proud of the new generations, of the young, of the young girls who have requested to join contingents, to work in the fields, to work in the Pan-American Games construction work, who are working on this project because there are only a few months left before the games take place. In the last few months I have talked with young women who feel that this is their hour. They believe this is a challenge they must face and are sure of the victory of our revolution and of the need to build a socialist revolution. Moreover, they are certain that only through socialism can our people achieve progress. They truly feel the need to fulfill their role.

I am deeply proud and happy to see how all of us together, with Fidel, are struggling for socialism and showing the world that the dignity of a nation will never be defeated if all the people, united, support the path we have followed for 30 years.

I must say that here in Venezuela, people are always expressing their solidarity and saying that Cuba is a beacon for the entire world. They say Cuba is an example for those countries experiencing misery, oppression, and the enormous difficulties brought on by the current economic crisis, which is particularly affecting Latin American nations.

Everyone congratulates us for what Cuba represents, for what it is, for the strength of our revolution, for being an example to the entire world.

[Unidentified reporter] Vilma, what significance do you grant to being the leader of this exemplary generation of Cuban women?

[Espin] Well, we have been involved in the task of working and organizing the women who established the FMC 32 years ago. [passage omitted]

I would like to extend a message to all our comrades wherever they may be, at their work centers, study centers, or prioritized projects, and tell them that I am very proud of every Cuban woman and of her role in today's Cuban society.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Vilma, for being here with us today.

DPRK Military Delegation Departs 7 Mar

*FL0803153091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91*

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, last night bid farewell to General Choe Kwang, chief of the Army General Staff of the DPRK. Choe Kwang headed a high-level military delegation invited by the FAR Ministry to visit our country.

During their stay in Cuba, the members of the delegation toured sites of political, economic, historic, and social interest. They also had an opportunity to become familiar with the experiences of our combatants. The members of the Korean delegation told the press that this visit, which started last February 28, has strengthened even more the friendship ties existing between the two countries, parties, and armies.

Army Gen. Raul Castro attended a reception hosted by the high-level Korean military delegation before its departure. Ambassador Pak Chung-kuk held the reception in honor of Gen. Choe Kwang.

Previously, Gen. Choe Kwang and Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the FAR General Staff, signed an act of understanding between the armed forces of the two countries. The document foresees the continuous development of close military cooperation in the years ahead.

During his conversation with reporters, Army Gen. Raul Castro Ruz took the opportunity to greet all female comrades on the occasion of the International Women's Day which is celebrated today.

DPRK Ambassador Interviewed on Bilateral Ties

*FL0903155491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1352 GMT 9 Mar 91*

[Interview with Pak Chung-kuk, DPRK ambassador to Cuba, by unidentified journalist; place and date not given—recorded, with Pak Chung-kuk's remarks in Korean with simultaneous translation into Spanish]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, we would like to know how have we achieved the strengthening of bilateral ties?

[Pak Chung-kuk] Today, we commemorate the fifth anniversary of the historic official visit that Commander in Chief Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz paid to Korea.

In view of this, I have the great honor of sharing this historic moment with all the dear Cuban television viewers.

Beloved Commander in Chief Fidel Castro paid an official visit to the DPRK five years ago. This important visit promoted even further the development of friendly ties between our two nations. In view of this visit, our

two countries have been able to strengthen and develop even further political, economic, and cultural bilateral ties.

Today, bilateral friendship and ties of solidarity between our two countries are constantly developing at all levels. The existing level of bilateral ties is based on the personal friendship between the beloved Comrade Kim Il-song and the respected Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz.

We express our hope and conviction that like in the past, these friendly ties will develop and strengthen even further in the future.

[Reporter] What do you believe are the prospects for bilateral relations between our two countries?

[Pak Chung-kuk] Ties of friendship and solidarity between our two countries develop at all levels. They develop at the political, economic, and military levels. They are constantly being strengthened and expanded.

Our two nations wage a common struggle in favor of the socialist cause and the independence of the entire world.

[Reporter] Would you like to discuss some other issue which has not yet been mentioned?

[Pak Chung-kuk] Since our two countries share this common objective, they support each other and cooperate among themselves at the political level. This is the basis of our bilateral ties. Our country has categorically condemned the political, military, and economic embargo that the American imperialists have imposed on Cuba.

We highly praise the heroism shown by the Cuban people to perfect the socialist cause. The Cuban people have also expressed their support with the just cause of the DPRK.

For its part, our country will make every effort to support and aid the Cuban people who are now waging a very harsh struggle to overcome current temporary difficulties. We do this by helping in the construction of the hydroelectric dams on the Toa and (Tuaba) Rivers, with construction equipment, construction material, and with other articles. All this helps us to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation.

The DPRK people support the Cuban people's struggle to overcome these economic difficulties. The Cuban people have always praised the deeds our country has achieved in building the socialist economy, and has extended its solidarity and cooperation to help perfect our cause.

Based on this understanding and common support, we will be able to develop even further bilateral cooperation ties.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS Releases Report on Integration Process

FL0803211691 Bridgetown CANA in English
1943 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, March 8, CANA—The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat here has released the first of two reports of an assembly paving the way for a political union of the Windward Islands, which indicates that there had been no opposition to the economic integration process. "No one questioned the need for economic cooperation among the states of the Windward Islands in order to further their development," a statement accompanying the report on the first meeting of the Regional Constituent Assembly (RCA) stated.

Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are considering a political union of the four islands, and the RCA, which will meet here next month, is paving the way for such unity. The report of the first RCA held in St. Vincent in January is to be distributed in two volumes. According to the report, the consensus of the meeting is reflected in six points, including the fact that "no one questioned the need to broaden and deepen that (Windward Islands) cooperation".

"A substantial majority agreed that there was a need to move to a political union for diverse reasons ranging from the philosophical, [the] union being termed a categorical imperative, to the practical—the deepening of economic cooperation required," the OECS Secretariat said.

The report concludes that at the end of the first meeting it could be "positively asserted that there was a need for political union. The task ahead was to devise a form and structure which would meet that need."

The first meeting of the RCA was boycotted by opposition groups linked to the Standing Conference of Democratic Parties of the Eastern Caribbean (SCOPE), but there is every indication that the group will attend the St. Lucia meeting slated for April.

Antigua and Barbuda

Government Presents Budget, Proposes Tax Increase

FL0803140591 Bonaire Trans World Radio
in English 1130 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Vere Bird, Sr., has proposed a tax increase during his budget presentation. He says an economic slowdown and a decrease in foreign aid to Antigua has made this necessary. Taxes on alcohol, tobacco products, vehicles, and the business sector will all go up. The budget calls for

expenditures of 234 million dollars [not further specified]. Mr. Bird is also serving as finance minister since the resignation of former Finance Minister John St. Luce.

Dominican Republic

Envoy to U.S. Denies Country Supports Slavery

FL0703170291 Santo Domingo Radio-Television
Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT
7 Mar 91

[Text] The Dominican ambassador to Washington has stated that he will bring up directly with President George Bush the issue of the falsehood of the campaign that attempts to portray the Dominican Republic as a slavery supporting country and that he will also ask that the preferences the Dominican Republic enjoys in the United States in the areas of trade and economics in general be maintained.

Engineer Jose del Carmen Ariza made these remarks after he met with the members of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee who favored his ratification in the diplomatic post. Del Carmen Ariza said he goes to Washington with the best wishes and interests in defending the Dominican Government's position regarding its sugarcane policy.

Jorge Blanco Trial Continued Until 3 Apr

FL0803121291 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias
in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Judge Juan Maria Severino has continued until 3 April the trial against former President Salvador Jorge Blanco and General Manuel Antonio Cuervo Gomez, retired. The continuance was granted to give the public prosecution time to locate the required documents for the proceedings. The Senate of the Republic asked the district attorney for a week to supply state tax collection and investment records, among other documents required regarding the Dr. Jorge Blanco government.

Dr. Jose Leonardo Duran Fajardo read the Senate's message and asked the judge to postpone the trial for seven days. Dr. Severino considered the request and continued the trial until 3 April, taking into account the upcoming Easter week in which the judicial activities are suspended.

Balaguer Opposes Public Employee Salary Increases

FL0803124591 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias
in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has ruled out for now new salary increases for public service employees. Although he admitted that it is not possible to live with the current salaries, the chief of state stated that another

salary increase would be devoured by inflation as happened with the latest adjustment. Dr. Balaguer said the correct thing to do would not be to increase salaries but to attack inflation.

[Begin Balaguer recording] What needs to be done is to attack inflation. What needs to be considered is not salary increases in an attempt to put out the fire that (?is killing us) but to get to the bottom of the problem. What needs to be done is to eliminate inflation through all means available to us. Consequently, I believe you when you say that it is not possible to live with the current salaries, but I am saddened more by and have the greatest concern as a citizen and Dominican not for the ones who have a job but for those who are unemployed, that huge mass of people and families who lack a livelihood because they do not have a job. That is what concerns me. [end recording]

President Joaquin Balaguer insisted that the greatest efforts should focus on the elimination of inflation and unemployment.

[Begin Balaguer recording] [Words indistinct] how inflation is eliminated and how unemployment is reduced as much as possible. This is why I oppose the salary increases, because that is like mixing salt in water. If inflation and unemployment are fed, the country's situation will continue to be more and more precarious. [end recording]

Haiti

Aristide Views First Month as President

FL0903182091 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter
in French 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Report on speech given by Haitian President Aristide on Haitian National Television in Port-au-Prince on 7 March—italicized portions in Creole]

[Text] Yesterday we had a great premiere on television. Indeed, for the very first time in our country's history, the citizens had the opportunity to see, with their own eyes, the presidential paycheck. Jean-Bertrand Aristide kept his promise and showed to the television cameras which blurred.... [changes thought] Although one could distinguish the check, one could not clearly see all that was printed on it, the taxes for example. Nevertheless, this was a great premiere. Titide [Aristide's nickname] presented himself before the people to talk about cleaning up, the great activity of cleaning up in the presidency. [sentence as heard]

He said that when he took office there was no money in the coffers of the National Palace—damned well right [et toc]—or in the ministries and the public administrations. One recalls that when he took office exactly 28 days ago, he said: *I swear*.

He has kept some promises. He has furthered the struggle against corruption by having things open and

above board. This was signaled by the start of a cleanup at the general hospital, the State University Hospital of Haiti [HUEH]. Let us listen to Titide.

[Begin Aristide recording] *Brothers and sisters of mine who are in the country, brothers and sisters of mine who are overseas, today marks exactly one month to the day that we celebrated our second independence like an avalanche. Days come and go. People continue so that the newborn baby respects his mother. [sentence as heard] On behalf of the baby who is one month old, I am saying happy anniversary to you, Haiti, my dear motherland.*

Seven weeks prior to 7 February, I asked the State Council to control the public coffers and to tell us what is going on in the public administrations. While I thank them, it would be good to tell the whole country in what condition we found the public coffers and the state offices.

Yes, let us shed some light on the ministries and the National Palace. How many employees did we find in the National Palace and the ministries? There are 326 employees at the National Palace. There are 395 at the Ministry of Information and Coordination; 519 in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor; 491 in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; 682 in the Ministry of Planning; 1,374 in the Ministry of Interior; 416 in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; 2,493 in the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development; 2,212 in the Ministry of Public Works, Transport, and Communications; 1,200 in the Ministry of Justice; and 9,746 in the Ministry of Health.

What is the total amount each of these ministries pays its employees? The National Palace, which is not a ministry, pays 356,941 gourdes [\$71,388] per month to its employees. The Ministry of Information pays 832,600 gourdes [\$166,521] in salaries each month. The Social Affairs.... [changes thought] I have not yet been successful in saying exactly how much is paid by all the ministries. For example, I have not said it but the Ministry of Social Affairs pays 4,561,670 gourdes [\$912,334]. The Ministry of Planning pays 2,125,625 gourdes [\$411,125]. The Ministry of Interior has a payroll of 1,941,986 gourdes [\$388,397], while the Ministry of Finance has a payroll of 1,782,698 gourdes [\$356,539]. The Ministry of Agriculture pays 3,682,550 gourdes [\$736,510]; the Ministry of Public Works pays 3,795,035 gourdes [\$759,007]; the Ministry of Justice pays 2,846,650 gourdes [\$569,330]; and the Ministry of Health pays 1,288,953 gourdes [\$257,791]. [end recording]

On television yesterday, the president of the Republic listed the salary expenses of each ministry. It would be in your interest to take a paper and pencil, like we did, and do your own calculations. Some ministries did not give all the figures. A little question to ask the president and the prime minister is: Does the total of 1 million and some tens of thousands of gourdes presented for the Ministry of Interior include the budget of the Haitian Armed Forces too? One should reflect on this.

President Aristide listed, with mischievous wit, the number of cars and drivers in each ministry.

He then explained some points of the cleanup operation, of the sweep, the sweep which was administered to the HUEH by Dr. Daniel Henrys, the new minister of health, who himself risks his very existence and those of his collaborators.

AFP Reviews Aristide's First Month in Office

FL0803184091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Report by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent Dominique Levanti on President Aristide's first month in office—read by announcer]

[Text] On 7 March, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, president of the Republic, marked his first month as head of the country. He determinedly departed the confines of the National Palace and embarked on a tortuous, muddy, and bumpy road. Without a doubt, it is too early to evaluate the Aristide government. One can reflect briefly on the first crossroad reached by the skinny priest of Saint-Jean Bosco, who became the president-elect of Haiti on 16 December 1990. If on the day of his inauguration Jean-Bertrand Aristide surprised basically the entire world by successfully initiating the retirement of eight generals and colonels in the Army High Command, he greatly surprised the country the next day by banning the departure from the country of more than 200 citizens, all former state managers, including his predecessor, provisional President Ertha Pascal Trouillot. The first measures of the priest-president were calculated and he succeeded.

Once in the presidency of the Republic, Jean-Bertrand Aristide began consolidating his power by hosting a lunch at the National Palace for businessmen, military men, poor and handicapped people, journalists, and political leaders. He demonstrated intelligence during his meeting with Haitians from the 10th department which is the prevailing term denoting the diaspora.

On that same day, the president informed his security chief that he could sleep undisturbed at the National Palace. The honeymoon between the Army and the people was doing fine. The soldiers were now walking like Charlemagne Peralte.

His second week in power was devoted to establishing the political system of the government. Jean-Bertrand Aristide choose as his prime minister Rene Preval, who is a friend, a faithful partisan, a militant. The prime minister-designate was accepted by the congressmen of the 45th legislature who will also vote on his general policy. A restructuring plan is based on the 1987 Constitution, popular demands, and the main ideas of the election campaign of the avalanche [lavalas] candidate: justice, transparency, and participation.

On the diplomatic front, the prime minister announced a strengthening of friendly relations with the traditional countries, friends of Haiti. He has made overtures in other diplomatic channels, to the point that one can expect Haiti to have diplomatic relations with Cuba.

The ministerial cabinet of the avalanche government was announced on 19 February and was installed the next day. This was not without criticism from some political leaders who felt frustrated by the president who had previously consulted them on this matter. All the ministers are close friends of the head of state. It has been said in opposition circles that these people do not belong to any political group. In a dramatic turn of events, lawyer Monique Brisson, who was the president's judicial counselor and who was foreseen as the minister of justice, stepped aside because of a disagreement with the president. The noisy government commissioner, lawyer Bayard Vincent, was appointed to that position.

In his first news conference on 22 February at the National Palace, the president provided other surprise. Jean-Bertrand Aristide repudiated the hired and untimely uprooting operations within the public administration. He said: No witch hunting. He also condemned the illegal occupancy of private or public lands. The president and his prime minister are now facing difficulties in the public administration which is plagued by strikes and protest movements. The first changes are coming a little late and they have sometimes been protested.

There has been difficulty in managing the energy crisis. The president warns against the use of power failure in Port-au-Prince for political reasons. He reproaches several foreign countries for failing to respect their promises to his government.

Insecurity is a real headache for the young government. The crime rate is soaring in Port-au-Prince. Rene Preval made his first public statement on National Television on 4 March to announce some corrective measures. He did not ignore the fact that crime can be used to destabilize his government.

With surprising moderation in tone and actions, the government of 7 February is today marking its first 30 days in power. Let us say that 59 months constitutionally remain for Jean-Bertrand Aristide to accomplish his five-year mandate.

Officials, Families Barred From Entering U.S.

FL0803135091 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French 6 Mar 91 No. 34018 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] A LE NOUVELLISTE journalist has been forbidden from entering the United States. Clarification by Henri Alphonse [last four words in bold type].

If the American authorities want to reaffirm and to preserve their influence level in Haiti while obviously

trying to impose their point of view despite all opposition, they had better do it within the limits imposed on this matter by the special character of the status of their diplomatic representation in the country and by taking into account international conventions. If they want to hinder the unfolding of the democratic process in progress since 16 December, on the other hand, they have chosen to do it clumsily and ridiculously.

It is in these words that our collaborator Henri Alphonse commented on the news that the mayor of Jacmel, Claude Bernard; the government prosecutor ad interim, Efton Mondesir; himself [Henri Alphonse] (as a voluntary consultant to the city hall); and their respective families are forbidden from entering the United States of America. The reason put forward by the American officials is the following: the fact that the three Haitian citizens affected by this measure dared to confiscate the passport of an American national.

During this interview, while agreeing to report the facts, Henri Alphonse was insistent on pointing out that his statements in LE NOUVELLISTE committed himself alone, individually. [passage omitted]

Rights Organizations Comment on Lafontant Case

FL0803131091 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Lawyers Jean-Jacques Honorat and Lyonel Bajeux have provided their opinion on the people who attempted the 7 January 1991 coup. They were interviewed by the Haitian Press Agency [AHP]. Honorat said they are ready to grant institutional assistance to any lawyer who would like to defend the case of the 7 January 1991 putschists, especially Roger Lafontant. This is what Jean-Jacques Honorat, the executive director of the Haitian Center for Public Freedoms [CHADEL] told a journalist from AHP. He added that (?thanks to) all the money they have, (?with) those millions of dollars these citizens can find lawyers to defend them.

Concerning the statements made by the Radio Liberte director Serge Beaulieu, who is now imprisoned in the National Penitentiary, that the situation in this detention center is worse than it was under the Duvaliers' regime, Honorat explained that the Duvalierists are the first persons to be blamed for the current state of the prisons as they did away with several humanitarian services which existed in them. He thinks the Duvalierist system sought to turn the National Penitentiary into a death camp. Honorat added that Serge Beaulieu's statements are capricious because the situation could not have worsened in the 20 days of President Aristide's government.

Honorat also denied that CHADEL is allegedly undertaking steps to facilitate the return to Haiti of Port-au-Prince Archbishop Francois Wholf Ligonde, who is now in the Dominican Republic. He said that they have given their opinion on a public fact which is a legal

situation. These political prisoners must be granted the proper proceedings. In any case, they must not be questioned in the absence of their lawyers. Honorat quoted Article 25.1 of the 1987 Constitution and the Inter-American Convention for Human Rights.

Furthermore, he declared that so far he has not approached the foreign organizations that will attend the first political proceedings, which will take place soon. He thinks it would be good for the government to prove its democratic wish by ordering the proper proceedings.

Jean-Claude Bajoux, the director of the Ecumenical Center for Human Rights, asserted that the statements made by Roger Lafontant and Serge Beaulieu concerning the state of the National Penitentiary represent a lack of respect. He describes as hypocritical the information saying that there are some lawyers who would like to conduct the case for the defense of Roger Lafontant (?but who do not) because they are reportedly afraid of the consequences resulting from the public's reactions.

According to him, we are becoming a state (?based) on law and respect for all citizens. He said he does not see any difficulty for the criminal Roger Lafontant and his codefendants who are multimillionaires in finding lawyers to represent their case. He said that Ecumenical Center does not permit assistance for these prisoners.

During a visit she made to the National Penitentiary with Justice Minister Bayard Vincent, Mrs. Maria Luisa Cesane, who is an Italian lawyer in charge of human rights at the United Nations, said that the situation of the prisoners is not as bad as they want the people to believe.

In an interview published in the Quebec daily *THE DUTY* on 28 February, President Aristide promised that there will be equitable justice for everyone. He would like fair sentences passed even for the Macoutes.

Trinidad and Tobago

Speaker Questions Canadian Parliamentarian's Visit

FL0903154591 Bridgetown CANA in English
1441 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 9. CANA—Trinidad and Tobago House of Representatives Speaker

Nizam Mohammed has written Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson questioning the motive behind the visit of a Canadian opposition parliamentarian who is investigating the "refugee" situation. In a letter made public to the media, Mohammed said he contacted the speaker of the Canadian Parliament, John Fraser, about the matter and Fraser indicated he is unaware of any visit to Trinidad by parliamentarian Jim Karygiannis.

Karygiannis and his executive assistant Ian Perkins arrived in Trinidad on Thursday with plans that include probing whether a "secret deal" was made between Robinson and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney ruling out the granting of refugee status to immigrants from Trinidad and Tobago. Some 13,000 nationals from here, mostly East Indians are seeking refugee status in Canada. Mohammed said the probe is "unnecessary."

He continued, "it is not difficult for anyone to appreciate that many of our citizens left because of economic hardship which visited our country and which indeed have affected so many other countries all around the world from time to time. Many of them went to Canada in search of better opportunities. They have used every conceivable means to obtain legal status there and in so doing the good name of Trinidad and Tobago has been sullied. This is most unfortunate and not unforgivable if we are willing to consider the state of desperation of many of those claiming refugee status."

Mohammed said the "crux of the problem" was the stiff emigration laws in Canada. Changes to the Canadian laws were necessary, he said. A Canadian parliamentarian who is essentially a legislator, he said, is in the best position to seek the necessary changes "if the welfare of illegal immigrants in his country means so much to him."

The speaker said, "these 'refugees' have left their families behind and the uncertain situation has been causing untold unhappiness and misery. A positive response will be for such affected persons to press for changes in the Canadian immigration laws. We can do this by organising mass demonstrations in appropriate places during the presence of the visiting parliamentarian to provide him with a clear message."

Karygiannis plans to meet with the two opposition leaders and Prime Minister Robinson during his week-long visit.

Belize

Prime Minister Price Presents 'No-Tax' Budget

FL0903171591 Bridgetown CANA in English
1604 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Belize City, Belize, March 9, CANA—Belize's prime minister, George Price, has presented a no-tax budget he says is part of his government's policies that "offer Belizeans the chance to make a decent living."

During a presentation in the House of Representatives Friday lasting just under an hour, Price pledged to remove all import duties on domestic refrigerators; announced improved agricultural credits and technical assistance for farmers; and said that to help young people keep up with modern technology the duty on computers will be removed. He also said the duty on solar and wind energy devices would be removed to help the development of alternative sources of energy.

Duty relief on fuel efficient vehicles is being studied. Stamp duty is to be removed from school textbooks and all high school teachers will now qualify for a pension, Price reported.

The prime minister, whose budget totalled 307 million dollars (one Belize dollar equals 50 U.S. cents), said his government's policies were aimed at greater economic development. "They offer Belizeans the chance to make a decent living, provide for their families, own a home, give their children a sound education, and build a better Belize with prosperity for all to share," he said.

"We make no cheap promises. We offer hard work, discipline, inventiveness, and creativity. Together we are building the future as government and people work in freedom with faith in God."

The prime minister reported improvement in Belize's economic performance last year. Among the highlights were: a 10 million dollars surplus on government finances; an increase of 9 per cent in the gross domestic product; a balance of payments surplus 21.2 million dollars; and sugar exports climbing to 92,454 long tons, 20.9 per cent higher than 1989. Sugar earnings totalled 86.0 million dollars, 18.6 per cent up on 1989. With bananas adversely affected by disease and heavy rain, 1.4 million boxes were exported, 7.1 per cent below the 1989 sale. Earnings, however, were up at 19.7 million dollars.

Price said there were encouraging signs from the shrimp industry. The garment industry was boosted by three new foreign-owned factories. Price reported that in the tourism sector 50 new hotels, guest houses, and resorts opened. Arrivals were up 15 per cent at 117,300.

The budget will be debated by the House of Representatives on March 16.

Opposition Criticizes Use of Soldiers as Police

FL0803212591 Bridgetown CANA in English
2022 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Belize City, Belize, March 8, CANA—A political row has broken out in Belize after the government's decision to use soldiers from the Belize Defence Force [BDF] to help police patrol the streets. Attorney General Glenn Godfrey issued a statement Thursday defending the use of the BDF as special constables. Earlier in the week the Human Rights Commission of Belize called for the withdrawal of the soldiers, and the move has been attacked by the opposition United Democratic Party.

The soldiers wearing their military uniforms were brought in last week to mount patrols in Belize City. They were sworn in as special constables under a section of the Prevention of Crimes Act. About 30 men from the 600-strong force are being used to provide round-the-clock foot patrols. They were given a crash course on how to behave as policemen and have the power to stop and search and make arrests. They have been issued with three-foot long police staves and are not carrying any weapons.

The attorney general said the decision to deploy the BDF was taken because of the worsening crime situation and pressure from business leaders for the government to do something about it. Godfrey said that the soldiers while acting as special constables are fully in the control of the commissioner of police.

"The government hopes that these special constables will help reduce the crime rate in Belize City and provide better security to the public," said Godfrey. He said that wardens in Belize's national parks had been given the same powers to make arrests. "In a small country like ours it is inevitable that the members of the various security forces should assist each other in the maintenance of law and order," said Godfrey.

Last week's edition of the opposition newspaper THE PEOPLE'S PULSE carried the headline "Junta or South Africa?" It slammed the People's United Party for allowing crime to get worse since it returned to power in September 1989.

In its press release the Human Rights Commission said it had nothing against the fight against crime but said the use of soldiers could lead to confrontation with the public. Spokesman Antonio Gonzalez said that when the military are put into civil society the whole picture changes. "We can see around us in Central American countries where the military have taken over. They have abuse and the violation of human rights and fundamental rights and freedoms. It is most urgent that something be done but we totally disagree with the use of the Belize Defence Force for policing our streets." Gonzalez suggested that a committee be formed to try and find a better solution.

Last year a survey carried out by researchers from the United States found that one in three homes in Belize

City had been burgled. Half of those questioned said they were frightened to go out at night. A third said they knew of a "crack house" in their neighbourhood. In an attempt to tackle the crime wave, the police last year launched Operation Thunder with special squads out on patrol.

El Salvador

OAS Report on Number of Registered Voters

PA0903012391 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA
in Spanish 7 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] An OAS report states that on 7 February, the estimated total number of registered voters listed on the electoral register delivered by the Central Electoral Council was 2,581,593.

When referring to the registration and the issuance of voting cards, the OAS observers have broken down the number of voters by departments: San Salvador 741,406 registered voters; Santa Ana 249,625; San Miguel 200,609; La Libertad 266,036; Usulután 156,418; Sonsonate 196,228; La Unión 120,839; La Paz 127,630; Chalatenango 89,253; Cuscatlán 88,487; Ahuachapán 131,297; Morazan 78,734; San Vicente 65,427; and Cabanas 69,604.

The report also says that 530,000 people have registered in San Salvador since the last elections and since 7 February, 263,000 voting cards have been issued.

The OAS explains that the reasons for many people failing to obtain their voting card are several: "One must take deaths into account; the ignorance of many who have no access to newspaper propaganda or information; and the fear prevalent in combative areas, from which significant number of citizens have fled from the war and violence. This is difficult to quantify."

The OAS expresses concern over the deficiencies and problems in the voting card delivery process which persisted and which undoubtedly prevented additional deliveries of this document in certain places and departments.

Official Decree Allows More Citizens To Vote

PA1003035291 San Salvador Domestic Service
in Spanish 0206 GMT 10 Mar 91

["Important message" from the Central Electoral Council (CCE) to the Salvadoran people; read by unidentified CCE official—live]

[Text] Salvadoran people, good evening. We, the members of the CCE, are before you to urge that all Salvadorans cast their votes tomorrow. Tomorrow will be the culmination of a lengthy process that started last year when the CCE embarked on a massive campaign to issue documents to ensure that all citizens over 18 years of age registered and obtained their voter registration cards.

The president of the Republic said yesterday that a decree by which more facilities would be provided to those citizens who have registered since 1 August 1990 and who have validated their documents, but who did not receive their voter registration cards, would be sent to the Honorable Legislative Assembly today, 9 March, for consideration.

I wish to make a clarification with regard to those citizens whose documents were verified by the CCE and whose names will appear on the electoral list, that is, the list that the voting table boards will have tomorrow. This morning the Legislative Assembly approved a decree by which it authorizes all those who are holding their applications to register with the Electoral Registry, and all those who did not receive their voter registration cards but who appear registered on the electoral list to exercise their right to vote in the elections to chose municipal councils, deputies to the Legislative Assembly, and representatives to the Central American Parliament, as long as they comply with the following requirements:

1. Citizens must present to the voting table boards, at voting time, their application to register with the Electoral Registry, as long as they were issued since 1 August 1990.
2. They must also identify themselves with their personal identification cards.
3. The president of the voting table board, to exercise control, will request the voter's application to register with the Electoral Registry and personal identity card, to confirm that the voter's name indeed appears on the electoral list, and after the citizen has voted, will sign and stamp the aforementioned documents and return them to the voter.
4. Those applications to register with Electoral Registry that show corrections or alterations, as well as those issued prior to the date mentioned in point number 1 of this article, will not be deemed valid for voting purposes.

Article 2 [no Article 1 as heard]: No authority or electoral organization may authorize any person to vote without complying with the requirements established in this decree.

In sum, Salvadoran citizens, those Salvadorans who are holding voter registration cards and those citizens who have registered since 1 August 1990 whose documents were rejected, whose names appear on the electoral list, and who did not receive their voter registration cards will be able to vote tomorrow.

In other words, this is another opportunity given to all citizens who fulfilled all requirements, but for one reason or another did not receive their voter registration cards. I wish to clarify that this legislative decree is valid only for those citizens who have registered since 1 August 1990.

Cristiani Address Urges Salvadorans To Vote

PA0903033891 San Salvador Domestic Service
in Spanish 0203 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Address by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: On 10 March, we again have a date with the destiny of the fatherland in elections to choose the members of a new Legislative Assembly and new municipal councils throughout the country. Within the democratic process all of us have been building since the 1982 elections, each election is very important, for it is when the people exercise their right to freely choose their representatives that democracy becomes consolidated and the nation gains confidence and stability, indispensable foundations for progress. All Salvadorans must feel proud that democracy is growing more and more in our beloved fatherland.

If there is something of which we are absolutely certain it is that democracy constitutes the sole civilized and reliable path for achieving development in all spheres. Our conviction grows even stronger when we see that the people are determined to follow that path of freedom, overcoming all obstacles along the way. We are here due to the democratic mandate of the people. We respect democracy and are tirelessly working for it without hesitation. We are very certain that peace is not just a moral imperative and a patriotic necessity, but also the irreplaceable historic framework to make democracy yield all the fruit we can expect of it.

That is why we are truly dedicated to attaining a firm and lasting peace as soon as possible. This peace will reunite the Salvadoran people once and for all and will allow all of us, without exception, to work for the personal, family, and social achievements that the Salvadoran people deserve.

Our message today is one of hope and encouragement as well as one of moderation and calm. We ask all political parties, their members, and the Salvadoran people in general not to allow any type of violence or intimidation to alter their willingness to participate in the elections. This is an extraordinary opportunity for the Salvadoran people to reaffirm our faith in the country and our confidence in the present and future.

The vote of every Salvadoran has incalculable value. Each vote carries the willingness, the stoicism, and the courage of a Salvadoran citizen. Each Salvadoran citizen should feel and participate in the great task of building the national destiny with three basic goals: peace, democracy, and true progress for all.

To make the most of our firm purpose for the greatest number of citizens possible to exercise their right to vote, we have presented to the Legislative Assembly a draft law which would allow citizens who registered after 1 August 1990 who have not been issued their electoral

identification card to be able to vote by presenting only papers from the voter registration list and their personal identification cards.

This government measure responds to our sincere hope that these elections will have a truly massive turnout, without harming the minimum guarantees necessary for preventing fraud. We are definitely opposed to fraud, intimidation, and repression, precisely because our ideals and actions are based on wholehearted support for the principle of freedom.

Salvadoran brethren: Your votes are the instruments of power. Use that instrument wisely and freely choose those you want to be your representatives at the Legislative Assembly and in municipal governments. The decision is entirely yours, but do not fail to voice your decision. We urge you to vote [four-second break in reception] will tell you. Contribute so that democracy will continue to be strengthened in the country [11-second break in reception] the path the people have chosen.

This is the path of peace along which we are firmly advancing. This is evident by the fact that during these elections, all political options are represented and the election atmosphere is safer than ever. Let us make the 10 March elections a day of rejoicing for our Salvadoran nationality. Let us make use of our right and let us perform our duty of voting with happiness and enthusiasm, as good Salvadorans.

May God bless El Salvador and may God enlighten us all. Good night.

On 'Importance' of Elections

PA1003220991 San Salvador Canal Seis Television
in Spanish 1530 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Interview with President Alfredo Cristiani by unidentified reporter in San Salvador on 10 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Mr. President, what is the importance of these elections for the peace process in our country?

[Cristiani] I feel that these elections represent the consolidation of the democratic process in El Salvador. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] President Cristiani, do you think that greater participation by the leftist parties benefits the peace process?

[Cristiani] I think that the fact that all ideologies of the country are represented is very important because the population has a greater possibility of choosing from among not only more ideologies, but also more municipal government programs, different programs at the Legislative Assembly, and eventually different programs at the national level.

It is important because it permits the people the opportunity to choose, and this is one of the principles that our Constitution, particularly the 1983 Constitution, contains for the first time. In other words, no ideologies are banned in our country, as long as it is expressed in a peaceful democratic process.

[Reporter] Mr. President, have you received reports of any anomalies at the voting sites, and if so, how have they been resolved?

[Cristiani] Early this morning, we were in contact with the Central Electoral Council [CCE] to determine if there have been any anomalies. There has been a problem only in Nueva San Salvador Municipality in Santa Tecla, where the flag of one of the participating parties was mistakenly omitted from the ballot. Naturally, this is an error that must be corrected, because this is a serious mistake.

However, a few minutes ago we heard over a radio and television network that the CCE has decided to proceed with the election of deputies of La Libertad Department and to postpone until another date the election of the municipal mayor and the municipal council of Santa Tecla. This has happened before. I understand that this is a situation foreseen in the Electoral Code, which specifies that the elections may be held at a later date.

I feel that the CCE has found a good solution to this problem. There is always room for human error in any process. The solution found by the CCE will allow the people of Santa Tecla to vote for their deputies and later to vote for their mayor.

[Reporter] Mr. President, how would your administration be affected if the opposition won the majority in the new assembly?

[Cristiani] I think that we have been trying to search for a consensus in our country, for the benefit of the democratic process. We have tried not to trample on anyone or to take action in a unilateral manner. Even though we have had an Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] majority in the assembly for the past two years, we have taken other groups into consideration when approving important laws.

We believe that if there is a calm attitude toward trying to resolve the problems of the Salvadoran people, there should not be any problems as to what should be the composition of the Legislative Assembly. [passage omitted]

Logically, many ideological differences among some political parties concerning the government's economic program could arise. This could entail problems, as we have already passed from a stage of sacrifice to resolve the national economic situation. We have been able to achieve stabilization and we are perhaps at the door of achieving economic recovery. [passage omitted]

Elections Begin With 'Calm' Atmosphere Prevailing

PA1003154591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1435 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 10 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The atmosphere in El Salvador is calm today during the initial hours of the first legislative and municipal elections held after 10 years of war, in sharp contrast to the previous elections that were affected by the rebels' boycott and the clashes between the Army and the guerrillas.

However, there were some problems in initiating the voting process in some places. The voting was scheduled to start at 0700 (1300 GMT), but there were some problems because the Central Electoral Council (CCE) did not deliver all the necessary material.

A reporter from a local radio station said the voting had not started at 0830 in Nueva San Salvador, La Libertad Department, because the ballots of the Democratic Convergence (CD) did not have the flag of that leftist coalition. The CD is made up of the Popular Social Christian Movement (MPSC), the Social Democratic Party (PPSD), and the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR).

Rutilio Aguilera, member of the CCE, explained to ACAN-EFE that the flags of parties that do not have registered candidates for mayors or deputies in a certain municipality do not appear on the ballots, and the case of Nueva San Salvador "is being investigated." [passage omitted]

There were also some problems at several polling stations, where members of the various parties argued over the leadership of the voting table board, but in most of the cases this was solved by casting lots. Nine political parties, four of them leftist, are participating in the elections.

Officially declaring the elections open, CCE President Jaime Romero Ventura again urged the people "to exercise their citizens' right and duty and participate in the country's democratization process." [passage omitted]

Nueva San Salvador Municipal Elections Suspended

PA1003163491 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 1525 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Statements by Central Electoral Council (CCE) President Jaime Romero Ventura and CCE Secretary Rutilio Aguilera in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [Romero Ventura, broadcast in progress] ...which will be given prompt and pertinent attention. I must tell you once again that there has been no spitefulness or criminal intention in this error. We have confirmed that the main source of the information that arrived at the electoral documentation center [proyecto electoral] made a mistake when presenting the documents from the

Democratic Convergence in Nueva San Salvador. Afterward, the procedures continued through the documentation center and the printing office. There was no ill intention during the various phases of the process. This has been, I insist, a regrettable error, for which the CCE apologizes and takes responsibility.

Salvadoran people: This is a momentous day in our history due to the significance of this event. We ask you to continue showing the same civic spirit and order you have shown so far so that this will be another demonstration of the people's desire to elect their leaders peacefully, and so that elections can be the path toward peace. Good morning to all. We will keep you informed.

[Aguilera] Thank you. Salvadoran people: Once again we urge the departmental electoral board in La Libertad and the municipal electoral board in Nueva San Salvador to issue the corresponding instructions to the voting table board members in the Nueva San Salvador municipality to deliver to voters only the ballot for legislative elections.

In that manner, we are complying with the Electoral Code in order to continue with the election process, which began at 0700. In this manner, I repeat, we are partially resolving the problem by going on with the legislative elections, but not with the elections for municipal authorities in Nueva San Salvador, a problem which we hope to resolve during the course of the morning. However, we believe that the decision will have to be to suspend the municipal elections until another day. Thank you. We will keep you informed.

To Be Held 17 Mar

PA1003202091 San Salvador Domestic Service
in Spanish 1745 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Statements by unidentified members of the Central Electoral Council (CCE) over national radio and television network, in San Salvador—live]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified CCE official, in progress] ...the following resolutions:

Legislative elections will continue in the municipality of Nueva San Salvador, La Libertad Department, but, for certain reasons, it will suspend municipal elections in that same municipality.

Municipal elections in Nueva San Salvador will be held on 17 March 1991, in accordance with the procedures established in the current Electoral Code. To that effect, we hereby convoke those elections.

To be promulgated.

This was the decision we adopted this morning, which we have duly conveyed to the departmental electoral board in La Libertad Department and the municipal electoral board of Nueva San Salvador.

In sum, legislative elections continue in the municipality of Nueva San Salvador, also known as Santa Tecla, while municipal elections were suspended and will be held on Sunday, 17 March.

[Second unidentified official] [passage omitted] Regarding reports about the Armed Forces' conduct in some voting sites, particularly at schools, we would like to clarify that when there have been difficulties or disorders in organizing voters to guarantee their access to the polling stations, the CCE has requested the Armed Forces' cooperation only to maintain order and to facilitate the voting process. This should not be seen as an obstacle or intimidation. Pertinent instructions have been issued.

I urge the Salvadoran people to vote. Elections are taking place normally throughout the country, except for a few regrettable incidents in Morazan and other areas of conflict. In general terms, however, the elections are going on normally. We are satisfied and hope to give preliminary results in due time, so that the public can be well-informed at all times. [passage omitted]

Electoral Council Reports on Progress of Election

PA1003234591 San Salvador Domestic Service
in Spanish 2201 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Public Statement by Jaime Romero Ventura, president of the Central Electoral Council (CCE), on 10 March; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Good afternoon, people of El Salvador. We are only one hour away from the moment when this grand election fiesta will conclude. I want to report to you the following: I have had the opportunity to visit several polling stations in the capital, as well as the outskirts, and in the municipality of Nuevo San Salvador and its outskirts. During this last hour there is an abundance of voters. The idea is for all Salvadorans to participate in this election fiesta.

Once again we have sovereignly stated our will in the polls and we have clearly and irreversibly reaffirmed our decision to further improve democracy in our country.

Since early today, thousands of Salvadorans have gone to the various polling stations to exercise the sacred right to vote amid a normal environment. In all electoral processes there are small incidents that momentarily adversely affect the progress of the election process in some places, but inconveniences of this nature have been overcome by the CCE, with the support of the leaders of the political parties and the people participating in the process.

These elections are being held in a true public fiesta atmosphere, in an atmosphere of absolute freedom and guarantees provided by the electoral authorities. The enthusiasm that is characteristic of our people serves to once again make evident that the path of voting has the backing of the majority.

These elections also show that Salvadoran democracy is rising to higher degrees of maturity and proficiency because of the unbreakable will of the people, who want to march to the future via peaceful mechanisms.

These elections once again make evident that in El Salvador, democracy continues to gain ground as the tool for reaching the grand objective of all Salvadorans—peace.

People of El Salvador: This is a day for the fatherland. We have the right and the obligation to go to the polls to vote for the political party of our choice. Democracy and peace are the result of a collective effort. Your vote is the peaceful and civilized tool with which we can build a grand and just fatherland for our children.

Salvadoran friends and citizens, the CCE hereby confirms that the election period will conclude throughout the country as of 1700 [2300 GMT].

People of El Salvador: Vote until 1700, so that afterward the voting table boards may begin counting the votes at the respective voting tables to then send the tally sheets to the Department Electoral Board.

This has been a report by the CCE on the activities that have taken place throughout the nation. We will be in touch with the Salvadoran people to keep them informed of all events until the end of the day and until the election process concludes.

We hope that early tonight, at approximately 1920, we will be receiving preliminary reports from voting table boards in the country's interior. As soon as we have those reports, we will be announcing preliminary results. You know that the Electoral Code establishes that vote counting has to be done by means of tally sheets from the municipalities and tally sheets from the departments.

The CCE will inform the Salvadoran people about these tally sheets so that they know what is happening as this national civic fiesta draws to a conclusion.

Thank you very much and good afternoon.

Elections Conclude; Low Turnout Favors Arena

*PA1103032691 Paris AFP in Spanish 0041 GMT
11 Mar 91*

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Mar (AFP)—The legislative and municipal elections held in El Salvador proceeded normally on 10 March. However, the elections were marked by a low voter turnout despite the truce decreed by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

By mid-afternoon, opposition party spokesmen voiced their concern about the scarcity of voters at the over 6,000 voting tables scattered throughout the nation. This low turnout could tilt the balance in favor of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena), which led in the public opinion polls at the beginning of the week.

According to the public opinion polls, Arena could hold on to the majority of the seats in the Legislative Assembly, followed by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Democratic Convergence (CD).

During the day, no major incidents involving weapons or significant problems at the voting sites were reported, except for the one hour-plus delay in opening ballot boxes at many sites, including the capital.

According the Central Electoral Council (CCE) schedule, the ballot boxes were to be opened at 0700 and closed at 1700, but there were delays in delivering the ballots.

The elections—overseen by over 200 OAS observers, the Carter Center, and the U.S. Administration—were held to elect 84 seats in Congress, 262 mayors or councilmen, and 20 deputies to the Central American Parliament.

President Alfredo Cristiani, Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce, and opposition party leaders agreed that the elections were held amid a climate of normalcy.

Nevertheless, in Santa Tecla, 12 km west of the capital, the election for mayor was suspended by the CCE because the left-wing alliance CD was omitted from the ballots.

By 1300, it was unofficially estimated that approximately 40 percent of voters had cast their ballots in San Salvador, which was a cause of concern to Gerardo Le Chevalier, from the directorate of the PDC, the main opposition party.

Meanwhile, followers of the extreme right Arena expressed their delight with the elections and their hope to hold on to the majority in the Legislative Assembly.

As had been foreseen, elections were not held in approximately 30 towns controlled by the rebels in the countryside. These towns had been excluded from the rebel truce.

In the northern and eastern part of the country, small clashes were reported between the rebels and the Army.

Unlike previous elections, voters had access to polling stations in the capital without being subject to military inspection. This time the Army concentrated its forces near the entrances to San Salvador.

The CCE reported that the official election results would be made public in 48 hours. Nevertheless, the parties have their own counting system that will allow preliminary results to be known by the evening of 10 March.

Despite the low voter turnout predicted in political circles, those who went to the voting stations expressed their hope that the electoral process would contribute toward putting an end to the 11-year civil war that has cost more than 70,000 lives.

AFP observed during its tour near Guazapa Hill, 15 km north of the capital, one of the main rebel strongholds, that approximately 5,000 peasants were lined up to vote in front of a school.

Julio Perez, a weary 45-year old peasant, told AFP: "We vote so that things can change—the war and the economic situation—because we cannot continue like this. We have suffered too much and I do not think that any human being can put up with what we have."

Likewise, in Apope, 12 km north of the capital, Catalina Carranza said: "We poor Salvadorans are looking for a new life, a new government, to see if things improve for us."

Also, San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Monsignor Gregorio Rosa Chavez said that the church hoped that the elections would contribute toward putting an end to the war and advance the peace negotiations that the government and the rebels have been engaged in for over a year.

War, Negotiations To Resume After Elections

PA1103035291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0221 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrillas warned today that the war as well as the peace negotiations will continue in the wake of today's legislative and municipal elections.

"After 10 March, the war will be resumed but it is the negotiations that will be strengthened," the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] said on one of its radio stations.

Today, approximately 2 million Salvadorans have cast their ballots to elect 262 municipal officials and 84 Legislative Assembly deputies.

Preliminary unofficial reports indicate a wide victory for the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena]. The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the leftist coalition Democratic Convergence [CD] are contending for second place.

The rebels—who unilaterally declared a cease-fire beginning on 9 March and ending at 0000 on 12 March to honor the elections—reported that no elections were held in 31 municipalities in the northern and eastern parts of the country, such as in Cabanas, Chalatenango, Morazan, Usulután, La Paz, and San Miguel Departments. "This is best evidence of the existence of dual authority in the country," they added.

The Government and FMLN representatives, with UN mediation, have been meeting in an attempt to end the decade-long war which has caused more than 70,000 casualties.

Both Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce and Presidential Minister Oscar Santamaria think that the

negotiations will continue and more concrete results will be obtained, no matter what the outcome of the elections.

Despite the truce declared by the rebels, clashes took place over the weekend in the areas of considerable guerrilla activity in the northern and eastern parts of the country. According to military reports, the fighting caused at least 19 deaths, while more than a dozen persons were wounded.

Reportage on Combat Activity's Effect on Election

FMLN Said Planning Attacks

PA0903035291 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY
in Spanish 8 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] The terrorist leadership has instructed its shock groups to step up the violence and terrorism before, during, and after the elections, a captured terrorist has disclosed. The National Guard reported that an individual, identified as Jacobo Lopez Crespin, was captured while spying on soldiers in Apopa.

Lopez Crespin, 20, a native of Arcatao, stated he has been an FPL [Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces] member for the past five years, since being recruited by a terrorist going by the pseudonym of "Fernando," who was the chieftain of a rebel column. He was taken to a camp called Los Planes, located in Iramon Mountain in front of the 5 November Dam.

Afterward, he said, he was named squad chief. He and other individuals were in charge of harassing the dam's security personnel. More recently, he had been assigned intelligence work, detecting the movements of military units and planning actions prior to and during the 10 March elections. When captured, he was gathering information on the sites the Armed Forces will provide security for on the day of the elections.

No Voting in 16 Municipalities

PA0903021891 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0019 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources said today that, due to the presence of guerrillas, elections will not be held next Sunday in 16 municipalities in the northern Chalatenango Department.

Municipal spokesmen who requested anonymity told ACAN-EFE that the presence of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) members will preclude the legislative and municipal elections from being held in certain places.

The FMLN announced today, through a local radio station, that it will not permit elections in 23 municipalities in the departments of San Miguel, Morazan, and Usulután, because they are "under our control."

The Central Electoral Council announced this week that elections will be held in all Salvadoran municipalities. Meanwhile, the Army began an counterinsurgency offensive called "Democracy."

On 10 March, more than 2 million Salvadorans will go to the polls to elect 262 mayors and voters, for the first time, will elect 84 deputies to the Legislative Assembly—currently comprised of 60 members.

On another subject, a civilian source linked to the elections told ACAN-EFE that heavy clashes between the Army and the FMLN that took place today in the eastern Usulután Department prevented the delivery of electoral material to San Agustín and San Francisco Javier.

The FMLN has decreed a military truce starting tomorrow and lasting until 11 March to facilitate the voters' access to the polling stations, except in areas under its control.

FMLN Declares Truce

PA1003184391 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Martí in Spanish to El Salvador 2100 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Communique issued by the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in El Salvador on 9 March]

[Text] 1. Since 0000 [0600 GMT] on 9 March, the different groups of urban and suburban commandos as well as the guerrilla detachments of the National Army for Democracy and the people's militia are observing a 3-day truce. They are concentrated in their bases in accordance with the precise order of the general command, as requested by the democratic opposition political parties.

2. Therefore, the people are allowed to vote freely, if they want to, in San Salvador as well as all other municipalities throughout the country, because if the entire people vote, Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] will lose.

3. This strict compliance with the civic truce declared by the National Army for Democracy is being observed, despite and against the violations triggered by the progovernment Army, which has unsuccessfully tried to recover territory under the jurisdiction of our revolutionary command. The civic truce is also being observed, despite and against the evident militarization of the capital and its access points.

4. The people will undoubtedly show, in a civic manner, their disapproval of the ruling party, which is the only armed party in the elections. The repressive and paramilitary attitude of the progovernment party against the political opposition, which has deformed the electoral process, is threatening to impose fraudulent results.

5. The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front will closely monitor the development of the elections and it will not accept new anomalies perpetrated by the anti-democratic forces. If the people vote, Arena will lose.

[Signed] Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front

Fighting Continues Despite Truce

PA0903230391 Paris AFP in Spanish 2055 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Mar (AFP)—Despite the rebel truce in effect since 0000 [0600 GMT] on 9 March, due to the 10 March legislative elections, fierce fighting is under way between government and rebel troops in 10 towns of the northern and eastern part of El Salvador, official sources have announced.

Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce reported today that fierce fighting is taking place in the vicinity of San Francisco Javier and San Agustín in Usulután Department; Guatijaigua, Sensembra, and Sociedad in Morazán Department in the eastern part of the country; and San Antonio Los Ranchos and Las Vueltas in the northern department of Chalatenango.

At the same time, military sources for the eastern zone have reported that fighting is taking place in Jocaitique, Corinto, and Chilanga, also in Morazán Department.

Gen. Ponce told a group of international observers that the fighting broke out three days ago and was still continuing this morning.

Apparently the fighting broke out when Army troops tried to occupy the towns, which are traditional rebel bastions and among the 16 towns where the guerrillas warned that there would be no elections.

The guerrilla truce went into effect at 0000 on 9 March to enable citizens to go to the polls on 10 March to elect 84 legislative assembly deputies and to fill 262 municipal council seats.

As of Saturday afternoon, the Army had reported that only seven guerrillas and one soldier were killed in fighting and that two minors were also killed by a mine placed by the rebels in a town in Chalatenango Department.

With regard to the fighting, Gen. Ponce reiterated that the Army "does not believe in the truces" of the guerrillas "because they (the insurgents) never fulfill their promises."

Ponce noted that thousands of soldiers are participating in the so-called democracy plan devised to guarantee normal elections in which more than 2 million citizens will be able to vote.

The elections will have the participation of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena), which seeks to preserve the parliamentary majority; the opposition Christian Democratic Party; and the leftist Democratic Convergence, for whom the rebels are urging people to vote.

Army Denies Ongoing Operations

PA1003014991 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Text] According to Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the military is not carrying out any kind of offensive in any part of the country to take advantage of the truce declared by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], which, Col. Vargas has declared, is trying to justify its aggression against legal institutions and the legal system of the country. He said that the Armed Forces support the consolidation of democracy and thus it is guaranteeing that the elections will be clean.

[Begin Vargas recording] The electoral authorities establish where the polling stations will be. It is the Armed Forces' job to comply with its constitutional responsibility to provide security, calm, and order for the benefit of all the people and their property. Right now, the Armed Forces's responsibility includes providing security for the electoral process. [end recording]

In recent days, guerrilla spokesmen have stated that, as of 11 March, the rebels will begin to recover their territories, and to achieve this they will launch large-scale military operations. Vargas said that the liberated territory concept is a creation that the FMLN has tried to sell abroad, but that as time has gone by, the liberated territory notion has been forgotten. He asked the guerrillas to hold to their word and not interfere with the elections.

[Begin Vargas recording] The FMLN has stated that it will respect the process. What we hope is that the FMLN will make good on its word and that the outcome will be deeds rather than empty promises. [end recording]

With regard to the dialogue between the government and the FMLN, Col. Vargas, a member of the government's official delegation to the dialogue, said that the differences with the FMLN are more of form than of substance.

He said that all that is needed is the FMLN predisposition to make the dialogue a dynamic process and sign an agreement. He concluded by saying that the government has presented a well-balanced and rational proposal that is in line with the national objective—peace.

Voting Resumes After Fighting

PA1003183891 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 1802 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Report by Fausto Valladares from La Union Department]

[Excerpts] We are providing further details on a report we previously broadcast. At least seven guerrillas were killed and several explosives were seized in fighting this

morning near Lislique municipality in La Union Department. This has been confirmed by Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Arango of Military Detachment No.3.

According to the report, a group of approximately 40 rebels attacked advance positions of the military detachment in [words indistinct]. The situation has returned to normal and the elections are being held normally. [passage omitted]

The armed incident is the first to take place during the elections in this department. After the situation returned to normal in Lislique, the people returned to the polls.

Clashes 'Tarnished' Election Day

PA1003223091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1942 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 10 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Significant clashes between the Salvadoran Army and guerrillas in the eastern part of the country, which have resulted in 19 deaths, have tarnished today's elections, which are taking place in the capital and most other Salvadoran departments in a relatively normal atmosphere.

Despite the three-day unilateral truce decreed by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), one civilian, one soldier, and 17 guerrillas have died on 9-10 March during clashes in the eastern departments of La Union and Morazan.

In contrast to the violence observed in those departments traditionally controlled by the guerrillas, a calm atmosphere prevails in San Salvador and the other Salvadoran departments, where only isolated incidents have been reported.

More than 2 million Salvadorans have been called upon to elect a new Legislative Assembly and 262 mayors throughout the country. According to observers, the elections can influence the government-FMLN negotiations on ending the civil war.

More voters are participating in these elections than in the 1989 elections that were marred by clashes, even in the capital, during which 47 people died in a single day.

While the Army and the government have accused the FMLN of violating the truce, sources close to the guerrillas maintain that the fighting broke out when the Army entered zones usually controlled by the rebels.

"It is deplorable that the FMLN, which had declared a truce so that people could freely participate in the elections, has broken it," President Alfredo Cristiani noted shortly after casting his ballot in the capital.

Humberto Centeno, a mayoral candidate of the leftist Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN)—a party that sympathizes with FMLN positions—has blamed the military command for the clashes "because it also did not suspend military actions." [passage omitted]

Electoral Council President Rejects Fraud Charges

PA0803233491 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Central Electoral Council [CCE] President Jaime Romero Ventura on 7 March emphatically rejected charges made by the opposition in the sense that electoral fraud is being prepared for the upcoming elections.

Romero Ventura refuted charges made in that regard by Fidel Chavez Mena, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party.

Romero Ventura, a member of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena], said that allegations of electoral fraud are groundless. He added that they are part of a plan by the opposition, which apparently will suffer a defeat on 10 March.

[Begin Romero Ventura recording] We were surprised and appalled by a statement made by Fidel Chavez Mena this morning in which he again hinted at the possibility of electoral fraud and implicated the CCE.

I believe we have handled many figures, and that it is worth clarifying a few things again. We are very happy and satisfied with the results of the massive documentation campaign, which began in August 1990 and ended in March of this year. I can tell you that out of a total of 417,747 voters, 401,518 received identification cards. With simple mathematics, this means that the much talked-about number of Salvadorans who will not be able to vote is 16,229. During the past two years, the CCE has offered citizens all kinds of facilities to register and obtain their identification cards. At this time I believe it is very dangerous to talk about electoral fraud without any basis. [end recording]

Romero Ventura said that more than 16,000 people will not be able to vote next Sunday because they did not obtain their identification cards during the registration campaign. In addition, more than (?400,000) electoral documents were not claimed since 1985, which means that approximately 500,000 people will not be able to vote, based on the number of registered voters.

Romero Ventura also said that there will be no elections in approximately 16 municipalities due to the military conflict, as they are located in areas under FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] control. He said, however, that the CCE will send the corresponding ballot boxes to nearby areas.

[Begin recording] [Romero Ventura] Those figures obviously include votes for all the parties participating in the elections. Logically, we would have liked for everyone to be able to vote, but we must admit that we are human beings in the CCE, and that a number of identification cards were not delivered.

[Unidentified reporter] In other words, those who did not claim their identification cards will not be able to vote.

[Romero Ventura] That is correct. Although their names will appear on the voter registration lists, they did not claim their identification cards.

[Unidentified reporter] Can you tell us how many people received identification cards?

[Romero Ventura] Yes, of course. The total of number of citizens who were on the voter registration lists up to 14 February was 2,576,534.... [corrects himself] 2,576,334. The number of identification cards delivered up to this date is approximately 2,210,000. Today I can confirm that there will be elections in Morazan Department. There will be elections in Perquin, Meanguera, and Jocoaitique, and also in San Francisco Javier and San Agustin, in Usulután Department. Tomorrow we will publish in the newspapers the list of voting sites throughout the country. We hope to cover 272 municipalities. Only a few municipalities in Chalatenango and I believe some in northern Morazan and in Cabanas will be left out.

[Reporter] We have heard that there will be 19 municipalities left out.

[Romero Ventura] Sixteen, I believe. [end recording]

Romero Ventura also condemned the attack against an activist of the Nationalist Democratic Union, UDN, on 7 March during a confrontation with Arena. The victim was shot and had to undergo eye surgery. Romero Ventura said that such incidents are deplorable at a time when we are trying to strengthen the democratic process.

Rebels, Opposition View Election, Election Process**Army Reportedly Plotting Fraud**

PA0803174091 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos
in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 8 Mar 91

["Communique from the 3d Military Region of the National Army for Democracy;" issued in El Salvador on 7 March]

[Text] 1. The Armed Forces have staged an offensive against our territories in the eastern zone in an attempt to give the impression internationally that there are no territories under the control of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Army], and thereby to block the cease-fire negotiations that are taking place on the basis of a recognition of the real situation prevailing in the country.

2. This offensive, under the shelter of the cease-fire declared by the FMLN, is providing coverage for electoral fraud that is being coordinated in the eastern area by Colonel Ciro Lopez Roque, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade.

3. The Armed Forces plan to perpetrate this fraud by holding elections in towns where they have lost control and which have neither mayor's offices nor electoral

boards, as is the case of San Simon, San Isidro, Gualococti, Yamabal, Sensembra, Osicala, Cacaotera, Corinto, Sociedad, Lislique, Anamoros, Poloros, San Francisco Javier, San Agustin, Jucuaran, San Luis la Reina, and Carolina, and other eastern towns.

4. By means of fraud on behalf of Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance], La Tandonia [members of the 1966 graduating class of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military School] erroneously presumes that it will be able to continue to avoid punishment in the case of the Jesuit priests, and other cases in which the international public is demanding justice.

5. Finally, we call for a courageous and determined defense of the territories conquered by our people with so much heroism and sacrifice.

El Salvador, 7 March 1991

CD Criticizes Army Activities

PA1003014891 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Text] Democratic Convergence [CD] leaders from Chalatenango Department today accused the Armed Forces of conducting military operations in that region to intimidate the people who will be voting in the 10 March elections.

CD leaders have complained that elements of Military Detachment No. 1 and the Atlacatl Battalion have been perpetrating acts of intimidation against the people of Chalatenango.

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] They have been issuing death threats against our CD people in Chalatenango Department. CD candidates in Chalatenango Department have also been threatened. [end recording]

According to reports, the communities most adversely affected are San Antonio los Ranchos, Guarjila, Ignacio Eyacuria, San Jose las Flores, and Las Vueltas, where, according to the sources, a large military operation is in progress.

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] More than 15 persons have been wounded by attacks with bombs, mortars, and machine guns carried out against these communities. There are already 15 people wounded. How many more will be wounded? They are trying to repress the communities. [end recording]

The protesters made an urgent appeal to humanitarian organizations, national and foreign media, and OAS observers to go to the communities negatively affected to see that these charges are true.

Ballot Box Placement Opposed

PA0903025991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0144 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The insistence of Salvadoran electoral authorities to introduce ballot boxes in conflictive zones provoked altercations today in the country's eastern area.

The opposition this afternoon warned that the incidents could have unpredictable consequences; therefore, it requested an "emergency" meeting with OAS observers in Usulután Department.

The incidents took place when the intensity of clashes between the Army and the guerrillas denied access to an electoral delegation that tried to introduce ballot boxes in San Francisco Javier and San Agustin, about 100 km from the capital.

Also, rebels who were in the area warned that the ballot boxes brought into Jucuaran today must be withdrawn at the latest by tomorrow or their units will destroy them.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) said that it will decree a three-day truce to allow the elections to take place, but it reserved the right to block the installation of voting booths in towns it considers to be under its control.

In view of the situation, members of the leftist Democratic Convergence (CD) told Radio Station YSU that the Central Electoral Council (CCE) is maintaining an "arrogant attitude" by insisting on introducing ballots in that area.

"We are worried about this situation because it is the civilians who are exposed as cannon fodder while the CCE is adopting a political stance and failing to take current electoral conditions into account," a CD member who was not identified pointed out.

He said that local electoral authorities asked the Army to support another attempt to enter the two municipalities on 9 March and added that this attitude was described by the CD as "an attack on the civilian population."

'Reliable Information' of Fraud

PA0903154591 Paris AFP in Spanish 0242 GMT
9 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Mar (AFP)—The Salvadoran guerrillas gave warning Saturday of alleged government and high military command "fraud" in the legislative and municipal elections taking place on 10 March.

"We have reliable information that the Armed Forces are preparing definite electoral fraud," clandestine Radio Venceremos, the official Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) mouthpiece, announced.

According to the rebel radio station, "the goal is to make the opposition lose three of four congressional seats so as

to have a parliamentary majority" for the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) party "and thus guarantee the continuation of the totalitarian and anti-democratic state."

Complaints of the alleged electoral fraud were also made this week by several opposition leaders, including Christian Democrat leader Fidel Chavez Mena, who also involved Central Electoral Council President Jaime Romero Ventura in the alleged plan.

Romero Ventura rejected on 8 March Chavez Mena's accusations and the report by the OAS observers that expressed concern over "threats and intimidations" to the opposition.

The FMLN said that the Army "intends to take advantage of the fact that the guerrillas have decreed a three-day truce in order to set up fraud in those places which are decisive for congressional composition."

Radio Venceremos said: "We warn the democratic political parties and the international community of these complaints."

The guerrillas reiterated their decision to "favor the opposition with a truce. We are not going to operate militarily on Sunday [10 March]," but they warned that "once we have complied with our commitment to the opposition, our Army for Democracy will begin operations at 0000 on 12 March."

"If the military get tough, we will have to hit them hard to make them understand," the guerrilla radio station said.

The guerrilla station believes that the "democratic opposition's" triumph can advance the government negotiation process through constitutional reforms and the approval of laws aimed at demilitarizing the country.

Armed Forces 'Bombed' Civilians

PA0903230491 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Here we have a report stating that on 8 March, between 0600 and 0800, two A-37 Dragonfly aircraft dropped 10 250-pound bombs on the town of San Gerardo, San Miguel Department. The indiscriminate bombing attack was carried out in a densely populated area on the eve of the elections.

Moreover, the Air Force bombed civilians in Chalatenango Department wounding 15 persons. During the past several hours, Army bombing and mortar attacks on several towns of this department injured over 15 persons, thus prompting a denunciation of the Armed Forces by the members of the Democratic Convergence.

They noted that troops of the Atlacatl Battalion and Military Detachment No. 1 are conducting intense operations in the towns of San Antonio, Los Ranchos, Guarjila, San Jose Las Flores, and Las Vuelta. We are reporting that these operations are endangering local

residents who support the opposition and the opposition candidates in that department.

Here is another report on more army operations against civilians: A resident of Guatajiagua in Morazan Department was wounded on 9 March as a result of criminal bombing and strafing by the (Paquerano) Battalion of the 3d Infantry Brigade; local residents took the wounded woman to the San Miguel Hospital.

In addition, the Armed Forces carried out indiscriminate bombings this afternoon in different sectors of Morazan Department. The Air Force was still bombing these areas as of approximately 1700. Radio Venceremos is trying to obtain information on possible civilian injuries. The Air Force has been indiscriminately bombing civilians in Chalatenango Department and the town of San Gerardo.

All these operations are part of the psychological terror the Armed Forces are trying to inflict on all the country's rural areas. These activities go hand in hand with the electoral fraud in the eastern zone and all other areas of the country.

Here is a report from Santa Elena, Usulután Department. At 0830 on 7 March, the body of an 18-year-old man, Jose Efraim Gomez, was taken to the town of San Buenaventura. He was killed when a mine placed by the Atonal Battalion exploded near Santa Elena. We are reporting that the Atonal Battalion mined the outskirts of this town in a desperate act against civilians of this eastern region.

Voting Opposed in Jucuaran

PA1003031591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0158 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] warned tonight that, in view of the "warmongering response" by the government to its truce, it will not allow voting in towns where the army has no regular presence. In a communique, the FMLN urged the Usulután Department electoral officials to remove the ballot boxes placed in the town of Jucuaran, some 150 km from San Salvador.

A few hours into the unilateral truce ordered by the FMLN to permit tomorrow's elections, the army carried out an intense operation south of Usulután and fierce fighting over control of the town continues.

"In view of the government's intransigence and warmongering response to our truce order, we decided not to allow voting to take place in Jucuaran," the rebel communique stated. It added that Jucuaran is located "in areas that are under our control and in disputed areas, where the Armed Forces do not have any permanent presence or authority."

In announcing the truce that began early on the morning of Saturday, 9 March, the FMLN also warned that it

would not allow ballot boxes in zones considered to be under the control of the guerrillas, but Jucuaran was not included in that category.

The truce did not succeed in silencing the guns for even 24 hours. Heavy fighting is underway tonight in Usulután, and the Armed Forces have initiated "softening" mortar attacks on the outskirts of San Salvador causing alarm among the people.

The military operation against alleged guerrilla positions on the slopes of the Guazapa Volcano, some 20 km from San Salvador, began at approximately 1830.

Army Said Provoking FMLN

PA1003175191 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 1703 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Statement by Cesar Martinez, member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front] recently charged that election fraud was being prepared, taking advantage of the truce ordered by the FMLN and trying to create an atmosphere of fear among the people in areas where there had not even been an election campaign.

In fact, we have received reports that the Army today began operations in the northwestern part of the country and in southern Usulután Department, seeking deliberately to clash with our forces. The Army seeks two things: 1) to create an atmosphere of fear and to prevent the people from moving freely on election day, thus hindering the elections; and 2) to provoke the FMLN so it will break the truce.

We have clearly said, however, that we are determined to respect the commitment we made to the political parties that we would not carry out any offensive actions on certain days. We therefore alert the national and international public to this situation.

CD Reports Voting Irregularities

PA1103024691 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL
in Spanish 1946 GMT 10 Mar 91

["News Bulletin No. 1" released by the Democratic Convergence [CD]; read by unidentified CD spokesperson over the telephone from La Libertad Department on 10 March]

[Text] We the undersigned CD representatives at La Libertad Department hereby express to the international observers and the general public, both local and international, our protest and formal report of the irregularities during the 10 March 1991 electoral process in La Libertad Department.

1. The Central Electoral Council [CCE] failed to print the CD logo on the ballots for mayoral candidates, although this logo was legally registered at the departmental electoral board.

2. The CCE showed disrespect for the Municipal Electoral Board by directly endorsing the continuation of the voting process and overriding the Municipal Electoral Board, the highest authority in Nueva San Salvador Municipality.

3. On 9 March, Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] conducted a propaganda drive, passing out leaflets inviting the people to vote for Arena. This drive was conducted in Sulquipan, Puerto La Libertad, Zaragoza, and elsewhere. We believe all this represents a major problem because it harms the political opportunity attained and the democratic process that could have been initiated through this process.

Parties Denounce Anomalies

PA1103045791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0420 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The members of the Party Representatives Board of the Salvadoran political parties this evening reported a series of anomalies that hampered today's elections.

Representatives of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Democratic Convergence [CD] have made public a list of irregularities, including the seizing of voting tables by militants of the governing party in the outskirts of the capital.

According to the charges, which were presented to the Central Electoral Council [CCE] and international observers, the Armed Forces threatened to set fire to the houses of peasants who live in areas of conflict in Chalatenango Department if they decided to vote.

The Party Representatives Board noted that public transportation services were extremely inefficient during the hours of voting despite the appeal to the government that it facilitate the transportation of the people to the voting stations.

The board noted that there were approximately 20 irregular actions in various parts of the country and this "hampered the various phases of the elections process."

Church Condemns Electoral Irregularities

PA1103011591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2311 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Salvadoran Catholic Church today condemned the irregularities of the legislative elections, an event the Church has described as "an absolutely necessary step" in the national pacification process.

After his Sunday homily, Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, told the press that suspension of the election for mayor in an important locality in the metropolitan area "is scandalous and serious."

The incident took place this morning when the logo of the leftist Democratic Convergence [CD] was discovered not to appear on the ballots for mayor of Santa Tecla and the Electoral Council ordered that elections be held for deputies only.

The bishop, who did not discount the possibility that the incident was deliberate, asserted: "This is outrageous."

With regard to the clashes in the eastern part of the country, the bishop said: "We must not use violence as the means to attain peace. For this reason, we hereby condemn both the guerrillas' actions and the Army's counterinsurgency operations."

"We are happy when the guns are silent and people talk," Rosa Chavez said. He urged the government and guerrillas to take to the negotiating table "the people's call for the cessation of violence so that a quick cease-fire can be agreed upon."

According to Rosa Chavez, the importance of these elections lies in that "they are the first to be held within the framework of negotiations, the first to offer the people a full political panorama, and the first to be held without an explicit guerrilla boycott."

"We are now headed for national reconciliation. We should keep in mind, however, that after an agreement is signed there will come the colossal challenge of building peace. We should now start thinking of what paths we are to follow after the war is over," he pointed out.

"We must substitute panoramic vision for the view that keeps us tied to present events. Reconciliation should not mean just pardon and forgiveness, but the passage through the melting pot of truth and justice as well," he added.

According to Rosa Chavez, "postwar implies guarantees of human rights. However this is a path along which we still have a long way to go. The elections represent just one step, but one absolutely essential for peace."

UDN Candidate Injured; Merino Reportedly Present

PA0803165291 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] This morning [7 March], the leadership of the UDN [National Democratic Union] filed a suit against the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] because of an act of aggression committed against an UDN candidate for deputy. Blanca Mirna Benavides lost an eye as a result of a gunshot wound she received last night, but is recovering satisfactorily in a hospital in the capital.

[Begin recording] [UDN Secretary General Mario Aguinada Carranza] The suit was filed against Arena on the

following charges: attempted murder, battery, and aggravated assault, the first two committed against Blanca Mirna Benavides Mendoza, a current UDN candidate for national deputy.

[Reporter] Was the suit filed against anyone in particular? If it just says Arena, the charges might be filed against the president of Arena. Yesterday it was said that the vice president was in the caravan in question.

[Aguinada] Well, the suit was filed for the judge to investigate the members of the Arena party who were at the site.

[Reporter] Who were the people there at the time?

[Aguinada] It has been said that the vice president of the republic, Jose Francisco Merino, was present. Moreover, eyewitnesses say that it was Merino's bodyguards who fired on our comrades. Therefore, the judge will have to file a file against the Arena party. The party's legal representative will have to come. If it is [Arena President] Armando Calderon Sol, well, he will have to come, and if not, then whoever, because this cannot go unpunished. [end recording]

The incident took place on the evening of Wednesday, 6 March. The patient's prognosis is good. Although the UDN leader lost an eye, her condition is stable, according to medical sources who declined to give further information on the subject. Aguinada Carranza added that this action is a threat to the electoral process. He added that by such measures, the Arena party is trying to wipe the UDN out of the political spectrum, something that Carranza believes will be impossible.

[Begin Aguinada recording] She remains on our slate. She is a candidate for national deputy and for membership in the Central American Parliament. [end recording]

The position of the victimized leader has not changed. Despite the injuries that almost killed her, Blanca Benavides says that she is not prepared to desist from her party ideology. Although it was not possible to hold an in-depth conversation with her because of her present condition, the political leader has said that she will remain in the electoral contest, despite everything.

Merino Denies Role in Attack

PA0803232591 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Report by Nery Mabel Reyes]

[Text] Vice President Francisco Merino today denied statements by members of the Nationalist Democratic Union [UDN] identifying him as being responsible for the incident that took place on 6 March in which UDN candidate for deputy Mirna Benavides was injured. The vice president condemned the incident and said that he will file suit against the UDN members who made public statements against him. Merino said that on 6-7 March

he was touring the eastern part of the country and added that he has proof that he visited several towns in Usulután and San Miguel Departments.

[Begin Merino recording] We have given the appropriate instructions to the justice minister to begin an investigation into this regrettable incident to make those responsible bear the full weight of the law, regardless of who they may be or their party.

We strongly reject and condemn the slander campaign that UDN spokespersons are engaging in against me, linking me to the aforementioned incident. Out of respect for public opinion and the post I am honored to hold because a majority of the people so decided in the elections held in March 1989, I declare the following:

1. It is regrettable that slanderous remarks were made without learning what truly happened.
2. My political conduct has been known to all since 1981. My basically democratic commitment has been demonstrated in my actions in the Constituent Assembly, the Central Elections Council, and the post I am honored to hold.
3. With regard to the UDN accusation, I here state that I was in the eastern part of the country from 5 March until noon on 7 March, when I headed straight for this office. I visited areas located in Cuscatlán, La Unión, Usulután, and San Miguel. On Wednesday, 7 March [as heard], I was at the Tropico Inn Hotel, San Miguel City, from 2000 to 2300. I stayed in room numbers 136 and 138. The hotel's administrative and service staff, guests, and visitors can verify my presence. Among those at the hotel were OAS observers.

Using the available legal recourse, I will file suit against the slanderers, whom I am, as of now, holding responsible for what may happen to me and to those who work in the office of the vice president. [end recording]

When asked which UDN members will be named in the suit, Merino cited Vinicio Penate and Mario Aguinada Carranza, since they are the representatives of the political party that has made public statements against him. He declined to comment on who is responsible for Wednesday's incident, because, he said, the results of the investigation thus far have not confirmed an Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] motorcade was involved.

He denied an Arena motorcade perpetrated the attack, although the UDN leadership has maintained its accusation. The vice president indicated that the problem that has arisen may be part of a campaign by opposition sectors and went on to refer to labor strikes in different government agencies and the legal suits filed recently against government officials. He said that this latter action is solely intended to discredit government officials.

Merino also commented on other topics related to remarks by guerrilla commander Joaquin Villalobos to the effect that the FMLN [Farbundo Martí National

Liberation Front] does not want to become a force that (opts for) a military path, but a group that chooses to play a role in rural areas—without weapons. Merino said that over the past few days, the FMLN General Command has opened a bag of tricks.

[Begin Merino recording] The FMLN commanders have opened a bag of tricks. While Joaquin Villalobos says he recognizes the validity of democracy, other commanders of equal or lesser rank have said quite the opposite.

During my visit, we learned that in northern La Unión Department the leader of a group in Poloros and Lilique sternly warned the candidates of political parties that he will not allow the presence of people from Arena in those areas. Commander Danilo, who operates in the San Francisco Javier and San Agustín sectors of Usulután Department, told area residents and candidates that he is the authority there and that he does not obey orders from the General Command, because the commanders are living comfortably abroad while others are bearing the brunt of the situation.

We have a recording of those remarks, which the Usulután Department Electoral Board has already delivered to the OAS observers assigned to the department. We could somehow consider the FMLN remarks as heartening and encouraging if a consensus or common will existed among the rebels. The incidents simultaneously taking place on orders from FMLN leaders belie their remarks, however. [end recording]

By way of example of these incidents, Merino mentioned the attack carried out the night before at the Military Police Academy, near El Espino Farm, outside the city of (Meliot). He reiterated that the government accepts the demilitarization of society, as long as there is a definite end to the hostilities. Commenting on the health of Major Roberto d'Aubuisson Arrieta, Arena's leader for life, who has denied that he has cancer, Merino said that D'Aubuisson underwent a medical checkup in the United States. He added that the results of the cancer tests performed have been negative.

FMLN Rebels Attack Police Academy 8 Mar

Casualties Reported

PA0803132091 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] This morning at 0009, Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front [FMLN] rebels initiated an attack with 81-mm mortars on positions of the Salvadoran police academy, better known as Semipol, which is located east of Ciudad Merliot neighborhood, on El Espino farm.

The attack came from the north and the northwest areas, according to reports from police sources in El Espino.

Of the approximately 15 mortar shells fired on the police installations, at least five hit areas that housed students

or troops, and at least two occupants of these installations were gravely injured while another four were slightly wounded.

At approximately 0100, infantry units counterattacked and tried to locate the positions from which the rebels were firing. Heavy rifle fire was heard in the region.

Also at 0100 C-47 airplanes and UH-1H Huey helicopters from the Salvadoran Air Force searched the area for rebels. The fighting ended at approximately 0100.

Rebels Claim 9 Casualties

PA0903214091 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] The urban commandos announced [words indistinct] for democracy and reported that on 8 March they had inflicted at least nine casualties on the Army during an attack on the Public Security Academy's installations at [words indistinct]. During this operation codenamed "Get Out of the San Salvador Garrisons" [Fuera de los Cuarteles de San Salvador], the urban commandos used artillery, 81-mm mortars, and rifles against the military garrison, leaving it partially destroyed. The casualties reported by the Modesto Ramirez urban commandos include two officers. The unilateral truce decreed by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front general command is to begin on 9 March to [words indistinct] while the Army continues its operations in different parts of the country.

Government Says Continued U.S. Aid Necessary

PA0803202191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1714 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Government thinks it is necessary for the U.S. Government to continue its military assistance to this country, whereas the guerrillas think it will intensify the war at a time when the process of peace negotiations is under way.

Deputy Defense Minister General Orlando Zepeda said today that a reduction or suspension of the U.S. military assistance to the Salvadoran Government would be "unfair" because "we need it, since we are still immersed in a conflict that was imposed on us."

"There is permanent aggression that is destroying our national economy and hindering our budding democracy, and the U.S. assistance is necessary at this time. It will be even more necessary when reconstruction begins," the military officer said.

According to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the possibility of more U.S. assistance to the Army would be an "equivocal and condemnable decision because, contrary to the wish of the majority of the forces of this nation, the United States would be rewarding those who ordered the massacre of El Zapote and of the Jesuits."

Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, requested authorization from the U.S. Congress on Tuesday to allocate \$294.8 million of economic and military aid to El Salvador, as part of the 1992 program. The aid will help strengthen democracy in Central America and Panama.

The White House requested \$40.4 million for Costa Rica, \$84.5 million for Guatemala, \$128.6 million for Honduras, \$204 million for Nicaragua, and \$27 million for Panama.

Regarding aid to El Salvador, the FMLN announced on its "Farabundo Marti" radio station that the United States "is bent on spurring an armed conflict to achieve a wishful military victory, which it was unable to achieve in one decade and with more resources and which it has no real prospect of obtaining."

It added that based on the results of the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Government "is promoting an increase in military confrontations in El Salvador."

"The United States covertly seeks to disrupt the agenda and procedures that, together with the United Nations, the parties established in Geneva and Caracas," the rebels stated.

The FMLN and the government have been having private meetings under UN mediation to seek political solutions to end the 10-year long war that has left 40,000 victims, according to the Army, and more than 70,000, according to humanitarian and popular organizations.

During this period, the United States has supplied \$5.350 million, of which \$1.703 million has been military assistance, according to reports by its embassy in this capital.

The Salvadoran deputy defense minister said that the armed conflict in this country "is political in essence" and that the "field of the principal fighting in this political struggle is in Washington."

Guatemala

Serrano Will Not Meet URNG in Costa Rica

PA0803193391 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1852 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—It was officially reported today that President Jorge Serrano will not meet with representatives of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) during his visit to Costa Rica on 18-20 March.

A government press communique emphasized: "Until now, the government has not foreseen any contact with the URNG during Serrano's trip to Costa Rica this month."

The government stated in the communique that "it views with pleasure the URNG's manifest willingness to

achieve progress in the peace process, but it would like this willingness to be accompanied by the end of terrorist actions."

Serrano will give an inaugural lecture at the Peace University in San Jose, Costa Rica, next week; and he will meet with Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon.

Nicaragua

FNT Strike Spreading; 8,000 Workers Join Effort

PA0803183791 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish
1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] For showing disrespect to the authorities, the 22 workers who were detained yesterday during the clearing of the customhouses on the northern highway have been placed under arrest. Frank Cesar, spokesperson for the Government Ministry, said that only 15 workers were arrested. He also reported that Cynthia Janeth Obando, a two-month old infant who was affected by the tear gas thrown by the riot squads, is out of danger in La Mascota Hospital.

The strike has spread, following the violence unleashed by President Violeta Barrios against the customs workers. As of today 8,000 workers affiliated with the different branches of the National Workers Front (FNT) will join the strike. The decision was announced yesterday at the end of a meeting of 300 FNT labor leaders at the Jose Benito Escobar building.

Another group of workers will join the strike on Monday. The strike is intended to repudiate the order given by the president to violently repress the customs workers who are demanding wage increases. Also, they are demanding that the government release immediately the workers and labor leaders who were arrested when the authorities cleared the Selim Shible and Augusto Sandino customhouses. The workers ask how the government expects them to accept economic measures which are harmful to their pockets and stomachs and how it can order the riot squads to repress their just demands. They wondered if the president is trying to imitate the government of her friend Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, who ordered the use of public force against the people, causing the death of hundreds of workers in the streets of Caracas.

It was learned this morning that Commander Rene Vivas Lugo, chief of police, has reportedly been removed. The commander's dismissal, supposedly came about because he was not in favor of repressing the customs workers. Since Vivas refused to carry out orders, Government Minister Carlos Hurtado told Carlos Bendana to command the big stick operation. Some time ago Bendana had been dismissed from a police post by Commander Vivas for being implicated in an arms deal with an individual named Luis Gomez. He has also been accused of several other irregularities.

Customs Directorate Occupied Again

PA0803214191 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2005 GMT
8 Mar 91

[Text] Managua, 8 Mar (DPA)—The workers who were forcefully dislodged by the police on 7 March from the main offices of the Customs Directorate occupied the facilities again today with the help of area residents to demand salary improvements.

The Chamorro government's decision to have Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo lead the dislodgement of dozens of customs employees, the police's use of gas that affected area residents, and the arrests that were made, prompted diverse reactions from various newspapers.

One newspaper reported that National Police Chief Rene Vivas had been dismissed by President Chamorro, but the Government Ministry denied the report. Later, Deputy Government Minister Jose Pallais said that the police had used gas and implemented other measures, but he added that there are no indications that they opened fire on the people.

Meanwhile, the customs workers' strike is gaining strength. In the port of Corinto, 150 km west of Managua, labor leader Yesi Silva announced that the workers have occupied the customs offices and will resist any attempt by the police to dislodge them.

Meanwhile, the hospital workers' strike continues after six weeks. Over 20,000 workers are calling for salary increases of up to 600 percent. The government is offering only 35 percent following the 3 March currency devaluation, which caused the exchange rate to decrease by 80 percent.

The economic adjustments implemented by the government to reduce inflation have decreased the buying power of salaries, prompting a variety of reactions. Meanwhile, government officials insist that they must await the effects of the price reductions.

Paper: Strikes To Expand

PA1003030591 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
8 Mar 91 pp 4, 12

[Text] After a CST [Jose Benito Escobar Sandinist Workers Federation] meeting attended by more than 300 union leaders, it was announced that today more than 8,000 workers from different productive sectors in the country will join the strike to condemn the eviction of customs workers by police forces and to demand wage adjustments; another 12,000 will join on 11 March.

Grassroots leaders also demanded that the government immediately release the 22 customs workers, including four women, who were beaten and arrested by the police during the eviction action.

"The repression of our customs comrades was the straw that broke the camel's back," Guillermo Lezama stated when he announced that 6,000 workers from the cotton

sector, 1,400 workers at the German Pomares sugar processing plant, and more than 1,000 workers at the Sandak shoe factory, among others, would stop working today.

Union leaders Alberto Alvarez and Ronaldo Membreno have announced that 8,000 agriculture workers at four sugar processing plants and 3,800 INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy] workers would join the strike on 11 March.

The women's movement of the CST stated that today is International Women's Day and that it will go to the streets to demand that the government respect the jobs of thousands of abandoned mothers. It will also demand financial aid to reactivate small and medium-sized industries that employ thousands of mothers who are heads of households.

It was also reported that 300 workers at the PROAGRO [National Agricultural and Livestock Products Enterprise] central offices and the teachers of Ciudad Sandino District No. 1 will also join the strike that threatens to spread throughout the country.

FNT [National Workers Front] Coordinator Lucio Jimenez expressed the will to continue to meet with the government to contribute toward the country's social and economic stability. However, due to the action against the custom workers, the FNT refused to attend the meeting called by the National Concerted Effort Commission Board [Junta Directiva de la Concertation], headed by Finance Minister Emilio Pereira.

The workers are demanding a 4.25-percent wage adjustment to compensate for the loss of purchasing power of their wages due to the 500 percent currency devaluation. The workers have included EPS [Sandinist People's Army] soldiers and members of the National Police in their demands.

On the night of 7 March, hospital workers decided to cease 90 percent of their services at the Bertha Calderon and Lenin Fonseca hospitals to protest that the government did not pay them wages in March so that hunger would force them to abandon their struggle.

Fetsalud [Federation of Health Workers] Secretary General Gustavo Porra reported at the union meeting on 7 March that negotiations with the government stopped because Health Minister Ernesto Salmeron declared he was unable to negotiate the 4.25-percent wage increase that the workers demanded.

Although the Fetsalud-government meeting was held at the Labor Ministry, neither Labor Minister Francisco Rosales nor Finance Minister Emilio Pereira attended. The meeting with union representatives was attended only by the Health Minister and Edgar Robleto, the deputy health minister for administrative affairs, who told the workers that they would not receive their wages or the AFA packages [rice, beans, and sugar package] until they stop the strike.

The Finance Ministry has also refused to pay the wages of the 2,200 National Directorate of Revenue workers who are taking part in a work slow-down.

Other Sectors To Join Strike

PA1003164291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1456 GMT 10 Mar 91

[By Denis Garcia Salinas]

[Excerpt] Managua, 10 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—More than 9,000 government employees and workers of the country's seven sugar mills today announced that on 11 March they will join the strike that 1,600 doctors and health workers have been holding for more than five weeks in demand of higher salaries.

After the government offered a 200-percent wage increase to ease the impact of the drastic 500-percent devaluation of the cordoba, the workers of the airport and the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy (INE) and approximately 8,000 workers of the seven state-owned sugar mills said they will join the strike.

The airport workers on 8 March rejected the readjusted wages and they warned that tomorrow, 11 March, no airplane will be able to land at Managua's airport, Julio Garcia, leader of the pro-Sandinist National Workers Front (FNT), told ACAN-EFE today.

The crisis worsened on 7 March when the government ordered the police to violently remove more than 100 strikers from the main customs office in Managua. The action enraged the union workers and approximately 1,200 Finance Ministry and customs employees who announced today that they will intensify the strike to protest the government's action.

Seven days after the government's announcement of the economic adjustment plan to end the hyperinflation that reached 13,490 percent at the end of 1990, labor leader Lucio Jimenez warned that if the government does not show flexibility to negotiate, the workers might repeat the strikes of May and July 1990, which ended with disturbances.

Jimenez added that they will incorporate the demands of the soldiers and policemen in the FNT wage proposal, "because they are also workers and also experiencing a hard time because of these measures," which, according to Jimenez, threaten to close small businesses. [passage omitted]

Unions Consider General Strike

PA1103045391 Paris AFP in Spanish 0311 GMT
11 Mar 91

[Text] Managua, 10 Mar (AFP)—Union leaders at hotels, banks, customhouses, the airport, stores, and manufacturing plants today discussed the possibility of declaring a general strike that could disrupt the meeting of EC and Central American foreign ministers scheduled for 13-20 March, union sources have reported.

The so-called 7th San Jose meeting will bring together in Managua the EC and the Central American ministers to study economic cooperation programs.

The Managua union leaders deliberated their response to an economic adjustment plan, including a 4,000 percent currency devaluation that was enacted one week ago by Violeta Chamorro's government.

The unions argue that, given the adjustment plan, real income was decreased by 400 percent.

The government's plan was not rejected by the opposition Sandinist National Liberation Front, but elicited a reaction from the Sandinist union leaders who, for the third time, appear determined to challenge President Chamorro with a threat of general strike.

Approximately 20 doctors and nurses at the Red Cross headquarters (one of the nurses is in serious condition) have continued a hunger strike they had begun two weeks ago.

At the central customhouse, the government ordered the use of force to dislodge the strikers, and dozens of union officials set up improvised offices to address the most urgent cases.

According to unofficial sources, 200 truckers, whose vehicles had been parked at border checkpoints for the past 15 days, went to the their respective countries' consulates to seek intercession with the Nicaraguan authorities.

Lacayo Evaluates Economic Stabilization Plan

PA0803222191 Managua Sistema Nacional de
Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo today evaluated for the first time the plan for economic stabilization. In a report, Lacayo stated that 92 percent of the population supports the plan. He insisted that the initiative must be supported because it is a national plan without political ties.

The presidency minister believes that the approximately 3,000 telephone calls received through the 40 lines connected to the 66-8001 number prove that 92 percent of the population support the adjustment plan.

Lacayo issued a call on the occasion of the international women's day to strengthen efforts against inflation and join the fight to defend the economy. He also said that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] communique recognizing the need to end hyper-inflation was constructive.

[Lacayo] "We believe this communique is positive in view of the hard circumstances our people are going through, the enormous sequels to the war, and the terrible poverty we are suffering because of that war and

many other things. Under these circumstances a communique such as this one is constructive and positive."

Lacayo remembered the proposal presented to the FNT [National Workers Front] for a one-month truce to analyze the basic budget and organize forces to stabilize the prices.

[Lacayo] "Lets denounce those who are inflating the prices (reventando) and lets constructively point out those businesses that are already on the ship and have already understood that it worked and that the prices will not be inflated due to devaluations again."

Lacayo explained that the \$40 million that were circulating in old cordobas (chancheros) were reduced to \$8 million by the devaluation and estimated that half of these have already been exchanged. He said that the national budget will be adjusted to confront the salaries instead of being reduced.

Antonio Lacayo announced that tomorrow at the Camoapa Cattle Fair, a program to create a fund to finance micro-enterprises will be initiated.

[Lacayo] "This micro-enterprises fund will be used to attend the needs of the street vendors (locatarias), small workshops, workshops of disabled persons, cab drivers, merchants, small industries, exportation craftsmen, and others."

It was announced that delegations of the IMF, World Bank, and the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] will arrive in the country next week to oversee the evolution of the economic adjustment plan.

*** FSLN Debate Turns to Finances, Corruption**

91P40174A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
5 Feb 91 p 8

[Text] As the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] congress approaches, internal discussion among its cadres is intensifying, especially regarding financial matters.

Until now the internal debate among the Sandinists has centered around the publication of political positions of the various factions that arose in the Front following the electoral defeat of February 1990.

Now a discussion about honesty, distrust, and the appropriation of goods perpetrated by the Sandinists during the "pinata" of March and April 1990 has taken off with greater impetus.

Guillermo Cortez Dominguez, a long-time Sandinist militant, stated the following in today's issue of BARRICADA: "I am doubtful that the property which for nearly a decade belonged to the State-Party, and which the Front hastily legalized for its benefit and for the benefit of some of its cadres following the February debacle, is legitimate."

Quoting Friedrich Engels, Cortez stressed that "studying the past helps us to find our bearings in the present and prepare us for the future," thus contradicting the Sandinist leaders who look only toward the future.

Referring to the maxim, "when the till is open, honest people sin," he said that "the FSLN's till has been wide open."

He asked that "solid mechanisms be established to manage resources and their earnings," and FSLN property, and criticized the Ethics Committee appointed by the El Crucero Assembly because, when the Sandinists divided up goods and properties previously belonging to the State, the Committee did not object. He concluded with resignation, "and it appears it never will."

Another Critic

Silvio Prado, another Sandinist militant, wrote a commentary in the same edition of today's BARRICAADA stating that the division in the FSLN is not between

"those who believe in principles" and "pragmatists," as the party would have one believe, but "between those who are well off, entrepreneurs, property owners, yuppies, and big salary earners, and those who have lost their jobs—the runts of the litter—and wage earners who are at risk."

Prado stated that Sandinism has been losing its identity for years, but this loss became more acute following the electoral defeat.

He pointed out that to hold a congress "without having regrouped as an organization, i.e., without reestablishing solid ties among the Sandinists, means it will be difficult for us to succeed in reconciling such diverse interests."

Regarding the divergence of interests, he wrote the following: "As of now the most obvious difference between one Sandinist and another is that some survive by living aboard a yacht while others survive by holding on to a piece of styrofoam."

Argentina

Ambassador Uriburu Opens Embassy in Kuwait City
PY0803162091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1120 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Mar (TELAM-EFE)—In a symbolic ceremony, Argentina today opened its embassy in Kuwait, the first Latin American embassy in the liberated Arab emirate. Ambassador Julio Uriburu French hoisted the Argentine flag inside the Intercontinental Hotel in a ceremony attended by high-ranking Kuwaiti Government officials.

Uriburu French spoke briefly on the occasion to say that he was designated by Argentine President Carlos Menem to work personally with Kuwaiti officials in rebuilding the country. The Argentine ambassador said he will remain in Kuwait until the country returns to absolute normalcy.

Defense Minister Gonzalez Returns From Gulf
PY0803163491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1331 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (TELAM)—Asked about preparations for sending 500 Army personnel to the Persian Gulf to serve in a peacekeeping force, Argentine Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez answered that he had nothing to report on the subject.

The minister made some remarks today upon his return from Europe and the Persian Gulf. He acknowledged that the foreign ministers of the Arab countries want to set up a joint force capable of guaranteeing peace and security among Arab nations, adding that there is no room for Argentina in that force.

He made it clear that only if the United Nations decides to set up a balanced force to guarantee this security will Argentina participate. For the time being, however, nothing has been decided, nothing at all.

Cavallo Announces Public Spending Reduction Plan
PY0903192491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0205 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo this evening delivered a speech to the nation outlining the measures that have been adopted to reduce public spending and stabilize the economy. He announced that as of 11 March, the lower limit of the exchange rate band will be gradually raised and it will reach 9,700 australes at the end of the month. He added that this measure will be adopted because the level of uncertainty will be reduced because the budget will be more balanced.

Cavallo's speech, which was broadcast over radio and television, lasted a little over 30 minutes. The minister used charts to explain the evolution of fiscal accounts.

He said it was very difficult to reduce the spending on salaries, adding that the reduction will be implemented through a strict administrative rationalization plan that will reduce the number of employees by 20,000. The number of public servants will thus be reduced by 33 percent by the end of 1991.

The minister was clearly optimistic about tax revenues and social security contributions, noting that the 13 billion australes that were collected in February will rise to 15.8 billion in March and 18.3 billion in April.

At the same time, expenditures will be reduced. They will reach 17.3 billion in March, he said, adding that even though this figure is practically the same as the figure registered in February, part of the January salaries were paid in February, while expenses in March correspond to that month only.

The speech, which had no spectacular announcements, reaffirmed a continuation of the policy of privatization, which will be supported by the sale of buildings and other state assets that will be auctioned or put up for sale. Domestic debt notes that are near their maturity date—including notes on obligations that according to pending trials, are owed to suppliers, contractors, and retired workers—may be accepted as payment for these state assets.

Cavallo emphasized that his team expects that as of April—or May, at the latest—fiscal accounts will be completely in order and there will be no deficit. He promised to deliver quarterly reports to the population.

Concerning the relationship between Central Bank reserves and the money in circulation, he said the February deficit plus the payments abroad have generated a 12-billion australes gap and that in March, this gap will increase by 6.3 billion. He noted, though, that he expects the gap to stop growing in April.

In this regard, he considered whether, under the current circumstances, the dollar rate would surpass the 10,000 australes mark. My answer is that you should not worry, Cavallo said, noting that the official estimates did not take into account the Central Bank's gold reserves, which are valued at \$1.4 billion. He said that privatization will yield at least \$400 million in April or May and that this amount will increase reserves.

Therefore, he said, it is not necessary to change the exchange rate band ceiling. The band's lower limit, however, will be raised as of 11 March and will reach 9,700 australes at the end of that month.

This can be done because the lower fiscal deficit in March and the prospects for achieving a balance in the budget by April have allowed us to reduce the margin of uncertainty in the exchange rate, the minister said, adding that at the end of the month we will probably be able to take a firm stand and keep the exchange rate band unchanged.

Expenditures

Concerning expenditures, the minister said 87 billion australes have been allocated to salaries for doctors and nurses, and this figure must be increased; the education sector allocation is 1.4 billion australes (monthly expenditures include 4.3 million australes per teacher and 500,000 australes per student) and efforts will be made to increase the monthly figures; 7.7 million australes have been allocated for each security agent; 1.4 billion australes have been allocated for the defense sector, providing for 8 million australes per military man and considerable savings are possible in military enterprises and in the designation of military attaches abroad; there are insufficient budget allocations in the area of justice; and the Foreign Ministry budget should be increased.

Administrative Reform

Concerning administrative reform, Cavallo said the basic objective is to ensure that public spending drops, in the medium term, by \$120 million per month. He said the second objective is to improve the quality and efficiency of the administration in order to reach—by the end of 1992—the same level of service rendered in Italy or Spain.

He explained that savings in the 1991 budget amount to almost \$300 million due to the dissolution of organizations, which led to the elimination of over 60,000 positions. He added that this amount will be doubled in 1992, when no more compensation will be paid to workers or to those who chose to voluntarily resign.

The reform will be intensified over the next few months through the elimination of 20,000 other positions. To this end, a broad labor replacement plan for public servants will be announced in the next few days.

The minister did not mention the major salary increases that were granted to public servants yesterday, although he pointed out that public spending will have to remain constant as of April. This means that any salary or price readjustment will have to be compensated for with real savings based on higher efficiency.

Editorial Evaluates Cavallo Speech on Economy

PY1103011891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 9 Mar 91 p 10

[Editorial: "The Economics Class"]

[Text] Although Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo's technocratic image and message probably bored or irritated many people last night, they should be grateful to have for once an economic czar who is prepared to give them all the figures instead of treating them like idiots, spelling out the budget for this, last and next month. Apart from the stream of figures on revenue, reserves, money supply, the currency exchange band and the service of the internal and external debt, he addressed the quality as well as the amount of spending. In point of

fact, the Argentine state neither raises nor spends that much money compared with most modern states but spends, poorly what it does. As Cavallo rightly said, it is vital to improve the quality of spending.

Of the specific measures, the most interesting was the proposal to swap off the internal debt against the sale of state property, a proposal which had been widely anticipated. Cavallo is thus finally tackling the state's debts to its suppliers and to pensioners, an issue which has been rolled over for the last 18 months. But he was being over-optimistic when he said that the state company deficit (which reached two billion australs a month at times last year) could be entirely eliminated by privatization since the loss-makers will obviously be the hardest to sell. Moreover, circumstances made him choose the worst state enterprise of all—railways—to present this plan earlier this week and Dardo Gasparre made no headway with the same idea at the start of Carlos Menem's administration. Pointing out that more than 60,000 civil service jobs have been shed between mid-1990 and last month, Cavallo also said that 20,000 more would soon go and announced the reduction of government departments from 500 to 100-odd—such announcements have been made by previous ministers and must be seen to be believed. So will the pledge not to pay any more to the provinces than is their due under federal revenue-sharing, which has been threatened by all of Menem's economy ministers since Nestor Rapanelli.

Perhaps the main criticism of the speech is the failure to produce any comprehensive list of spending cuts—indeed, Cavallo even expressed skepticism that this was possible. Even though the 47-70 percent pay hikes for the central administration are only supposed to cost 12-13 million dollars, it is probably just as well that Cavallo thought better of including them in last night's message, announcing them the day before, or else the impression of any effort to save money would have been wiped out altogether. The reliance on the recessive tool of statutory reserve requirements to avoid inflation is also disappointing. Yet Cavallo deserves praise for his courage in thinking aloud to the people, thus permitting a broader participation in economic policy.

Brazil**Government Still Not Reopening Embassy in Baghdad**

PY0803231791 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 8 Mar 91 p 21

[Text] Brasilia—The Brazilian Government does not intend to reopen its embassy in Baghdad for the time being. Itamaraty believes that it would be politically unwise to treat the winners and the losers in the same manner. The embassy in Kuwait has already been reopened.

Rene Loncan, the Brazilian charge d'affaires in Baghdad, has been stationed in Amman since the departure of all Brazilian citizens from Iraq. Loncan has been instructed to wait in Jordan until further notice, a move that seeks

to help to locate and liberate missing Brazilian journalists William Waack and Helio Campos.

The immediate reactivation of the embassy in Baghdad could also be interpreted as a move to get closer to Iraq.

Di Tella, Rezek Discuss Details of Common Market

PY0903143891 *Brasilia Domestic Service*
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] In his first business trip, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella met today with his Brazilian counterpart, Francisco Rezek, to discuss the Latin American common market. Among other issues, Di Tella and Rezek discussed the final details of the Latin American common market to be established in Asuncion on 26 March. Di Tella believes this new market is as significant as the EEC because it has great economic power and the power to change.

Moreover, Di Tella reiterated the invitation for Brazilian enterprises to participate in joint ventures [preceding two words in English] with Argentine enterprises in the reconstruction of Kuwait.

Another issue raised by the two ministers was the four-plus-one [cuatro mas uno] agreement to be signed in April by Argentina, Brazil, the United States, Paraguay, and Uruguay; this agreement establishes a free trade zone for these countries.

Another Amazonian Peasant Leader Murdered in Para

PY1003023491 *Madrid EFE in English* 0210 GMT
10 Mar 91

[Text] Belem, Brazil, March 9 (EFE)—Another peasant leader in Brazil's Amazonian state of Para has been killed, the latest in a series of murders of rural workers opposed to land grabbing in the jungle region, the Globo television network reported Saturday.

Globo said Sebastiao Ribeiro da Silva was killed by unidentified gunmen Friday in the city of Tailandia, 200 km from Para's state capital Belem, which is about 1,500 km north of Brasilia.

Ribeiro headed a group of 800 peasant farmers who cultivated fields coveted by big landowners in the area.

He was the sixth person in Para to be killed in the past year in disputes linked to the mass clearing of jungle and forest land by wealthy landowners who large-scale cattle breeding. [sentence as received]

Last month, rural workers' union president Expedito Ribeiro de Souza was gunned down in the city of Rio Maria.

His replacement, Carlos Cabral Pereira, was wounded Monday by a gunmen believed to have been hired by local landowners.

A Catholic Church commission studying peasant rights' violations issued a report Saturday in which it blamed wealthy landowners for the murder of 175 rural workers in Para since 1980.

Local police have said investigations into the killings were being hampered because many witnesses refused to testify for fear of reprisals.

The country's prosecuting attorney's office has asked the national government to send security forces to Para to guarantee the safety of the peasants and their union leaders.

The church commission said 10 peasant leaders were on a landowners' hit list and that regional authorities were doing nothing about it.

The commission's report said that since 1964, 1,650 peasants in Brazil had been killed in disputes with landowners and that only 24 cases have been brought to trial.

Poll Shows Disapproval of Collor-2 Plan Rising

PY0903210691 *Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO* in Portuguese 7 Mar 91 First Section p 12

[Summary] Compared to a poll conducted a week after the promulgation of Collor-2 Plan on 31 January, the DataFOLHA poll conducted in 10 Brazilian capitals on 4, 5, and 6 March indicates that disapproval of the plan has been increasing. In the opinion of 48 percent of the residents of these 10 capitals, the plan is harming the country; only 24 percent of those polled think the plan is good.

Those who believe that the plan has harmed them increased from 58 percent to 63 percent; those who believe that the plan will result in more unemployment increased from 60 percent to 79 percent; and those who believe that the price freeze is not working increased from 49 percent to 57 percent.

The results of a DataFOLHA poll conducted in 156 counties nationwide indicate that 60 percent of those interviewed believe that the purchasing power of their salaries has been reduced. During this poll, 7,882 Brazilians over the age of 16 were interviewed

*** Firms Show Recovery of Losses by End of 1990**

91SM0199A *Sao Paulo ISTOE SENHOR* in Portuguese
16 Jan 91 pp 44-45

[Article by Eliana Simonetti: "The Survivors"; first paragraph is ISTOE SENHOR introduction]

[Text] Balance sheets are showing that even with the recession, many firms again showed a profit in 1990.

Recession, which was the method chosen by the government to check inflation, has wreaked havoc with workers' wallets but has not affected Brazilian firms in the same way. Thanks to layoffs and cost cutting, and

even while doing a lot of complaining about the economic measures, businessmen have managed to avoid the threat of general bankruptcy, and the balance sheets for their businesses indicate that there was a definite return to profitability between the time the Collor Plan was published and the end of 1990. Actually, according to analyses made by consulting firms, only the sectors of building materials, food, and textile products were completely in balance, but even those showing losses managed to reduce their losses during the year. The overall result is a recovery of profitability, as is shown by the figures put together by Arthur Andersen: the firms went from a loss of 4 percent in the first quarter to a profit of 6.5 percent at the end of September. "There is no doubt that the next balance sheets are going to reveal surprising profits," predicts Sergio Bleinat of Bleinat and Associates, a Sao Paulo consulting firm that has already been approached by clients interested in using tax planning to reduce the profit shown on their 1990 balance sheets.

The data resulting from Arthur Andersen's analysis of the balance sheets of 220 publicly traded companies indicate not only that there has been adaptation and recovery, but also that the equity situation of Brazilian companies is good. The explanation for the large number of filings for protection from creditors during the year, and particularly during the last three months of the year, is to be found in the government's continuation of its tight money policy, which harmed cash flow and prevented healthy firms from paying their suppliers. In March, the firms had sufficient cash to pay 84 percent of their debt to suppliers. By September, there was only enough to pay 44 percent of that debt.

"Since the expectation was that things were going to become much more difficult in the Brazilian economy, businessmen forced themselves to rationalize their businesses, with the result that 1991 should be much better than expected," says Edson Hatamura of Trevisan and Associates. Comparing the net profit of publicly traded firms for the first half of 1990 with the same period the year before, Hatamura says that the only sector really harmed by the government's policy was the capital goods industry. Sales by that sector dropped by about 43.5 percent, production was down 7.02 percent, and employment fell by 13.9 percent. He concluded by saying: "The outlook for that sector is not good."

Even in the machinery and equipment sector, however, the situation did not get worse during the year. On the contrary, firms in that sector went from a 15.4-percent loss on sales in June to a smaller loss of 8.9 percent in September. The data collected by Arthur Andersen also indicate that losses will be smaller this year in the sectors of metallurgy, electro-electronics, and chemicals. The textile industry, which reported a 7-percent loss on sales in June, turned that into a 2.6-percent profit in September. In that same area, however, there was a significant drop in inventory levels: inventories on hand at the textile firms dropped from a 2.2-month supply in June to a 1.6-month supply in September. "That is dangerous," says Marcio Orlandi, director of the consulting firm, who

foresees a better future for sectors which, while not showing a profit in September, did keep their inventory levels high, examples being the chemical and metallurgical industries. "These industries will have the chance to sell their products at better prices," he explains.

In many cases, however, the choice between holding on to inventories and selling them was not that simple. Renato Muraro Delagnesi, manager of Votorantim Textiles, was producing 300 metric tons of synthetic textiles per month until November 1990. In that month, having sold only 8 percent of his production, he was forced to keep his products in inventory, but he took a drastic step to be able to keep producing: he dropped synthetic textiles and began manufacturing cotton cloth in the same quantities, laying off half of his employees and shutting down 150 looms. "We adapted to the new profile of the Brazilian consumer and maintained our profitability," he explains. Votorantim Textiles, which belongs to the brothers Jose and Antonio Ermirio de Moraes and gave rise to the largest privately held group in Brazil, has its headquarters in Sorocaba in Sao Paulo's interior. It has an annual billing of \$3.5 million and intends to stay at that level.

In the case of the textile industry, lower import quotas have harmed the sale of domestic products. The solution adopted by some companies has been to increase their exports, which are expected to double by the first quarter of this year. As a matter of fact, the foreign market has been largely responsible for the continuing profit levels of firms in a number of industries following the drop in the purchasing power of domestic consumers. In the paper and cellulose industry, for example, sales volume during the first quarter of 1990 was high in the domestic market, and there was no need to increase exports. But when the domestic market declined following the introduction of the Collor Plan, the foreign market's share of consumption rose by 15 percent. That industry's profitability during the first half of 1990 totaled 8.1 percent.

Sergio Bergamini, director of the Economic Department at the Sao Paulo Federation of Industries, admits: "The firms are much more flexible than was thought. They adapt to the conditions of the moment." Even after admitting that the recession will probably not be as dramatic as predicted, the businessman complains that "the government should have already signaled some measures for alleviating the situation of the firms." Bergamini's field of activity is paper and cellulose. He says: "That sector is producing at only 40 percent of capacity." In view of that reality and in keeping with the philosophy that it is necessary to adapt to the new reality, businessmen have cut wages and stopped paying taxes. "In the first half of 1991, the government will probably have difficulty implementing a fiscal policy involving a surplus," says Orlandi. And in anticipation of that situation, the government of Sao Paulo State has already set up, by departmental order, a register that will

be used to keep track of firms owing the ICMS [expansion not given]. "We are managing to avoid the worst, but we are having to choose priorities," Bergamini says by way of explanation.

Even in the face of facts proving beyond a doubt that their businesses are healthy, the businessmen are not changing their tune. "Profit has a definite limit. You can go from that to a loss in an hour's time," says Bergamini, who charges that because of the method used to correct stock values, the balance sheets are distorted. Arthur Andersen, which converted all its data by using the IGP [General Price Index] published by the FGV [Getulio Vargas Foundation] to eliminate the effect of inflation on the firms' operating results, came to the conclusion that of the 220 companies analyzed, 47 reported lower profits than they actually earned, and 36 reported higher losses than they actually incurred.

*** Petrobras Increases Stocks of Gas, Derivatives**

91SM0199B Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese
29 Jan 91 p 22

[Article by Silvia Faria: "Petrobras Increases Stocks of Gas and Petroleum Derivatives"]

[Text] Brasilia—Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] has increased its stock of petroleum derivatives over the past few days, and the available supply of LPG [liquefied petroleum gas] (cooking gas) totals 221,000 metric tons, or enough to keep the market supplied for 240 days (eight months) under current conditions. Stocks of derivatives rose in general, the reason being that the government enterprise has begun refining more petroleum and consumption has dropped since the war began. The situation is comfortable, and no new rationing measures are required, according to a statement by the chairman of Petrobras, Eduardo Teixeira, during a meeting to assess the war in the Persian Gulf that was held at Planalto Palace yesterday in the presence of President Collor.

As of yesterday, Petrobras' stock of crude oil totaled 40.8 million barrels, or enough for nearly four months if that government enterprise holds to its production rate of 680,000 barrels per day, according to Teixeira. Consumption is in the neighborhood of 1 million barrels per day following the decline of 100,000 barrels, and the stock of petroleum is remaining stable because imports are flowing normally and domestic production has increased. That situation, said Teixeira, makes it possible to say that if imports from the Gulf are not interrupted, the stock will be sufficient for an indefinite period since it is not being used up. If it becomes necessary to dip into that stock to supplement domestic production, the volume available will supply the market through the end of May.

"Petrobras' contracts for importing from 380,000 to 390,000 barrels per day are being fulfilled normally. Because of that, it is not necessary to buy on the spot market to keep inventories constant," said Teixeira.

Stocks of Derivatives

Derivative	Stock (28 Jan)	Duration of supply
Petroleum	40.8 million barrels	120 days
Diesel oil	4.637 million barrels	Indefinite
Gasoline	2.895 million barrels	Indefinite
Gas	221,000 metric tons	240 days

Source: Petrobras

The quantities of gasoline and diesel oil are increasing because the country is not using its reserves. If the present situation continues, those stocks will not be used. Petroleum stocks are sufficient for 120 days.

The situation with domestic gas supplies was the most difficult at first, but stocks are now sufficient for the next 240 days. The volume stocked onshore by Petrobras totals 101,000 metric tons (the equivalent of 112 days of imports), and another 120,000 metric tons are already on the way (60,000 metric tons from Mexico, 18,000 from Angola, and 42,000 from Saudi Arabia). The result is that the domestic market, which consumes 11,900 metric tons per day, has a guaranteed supply for a little over 240 days.

Domestic gas production is up by 800 metric tons per day thanks to the reprocessing of naphtha, bringing the total to 11,000 metric tons per day. As a result of the rationing measures adopted, consumption has fallen from 13,110 to 11,900 metric tons per day. According to Teixeira, new measures to restrict consumption will not be necessary if the current rate of petroleum imports continues.

Stocks of diesel oil totaled 4.637 million barrels yesterday, compared to 4.433 million barrels on the 25th, while gasoline totaled 2.895 million barrels (compared to 2.356 million) and gas totaled 101,000 metric tons (compared to 98,000).

Chile

Matthei 'Fully Responsible' for Air Force Actions

PY0803184191 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Chilean Air Force Commander General Fernando Matthei has said that he is fully responsible for what has happened in his institution. He added that only democracy and the state of law can guarantee that the events described in the Rettig report will not be repeated.

Matthei's statement was officially released by the Air Force today in answer to the Rettig report, following yesterday's meeting of the Corps of Air Force Generals to evaluate that document.

The declaration by Gen. Matthei also referred to the events that have occurred since 1973 [11 September was the date of the coup that brought General Augusto Pinochet to power] from the point of view of the Air Force.

[Begin Matthei recording] As commander of the Air Force, I would like to reiterate that I am fully responsible for what happened in my institution in compliance with the law, and with my honor as a soldier.

I believe that we, the majority of Chileans, recognize the efforts of President Patricio Aylwin in seeking a reconciliation which will lead Chile to a better future. I fully support this chosen path. I am convinced that only a representative democracy, with its balance of power and the full implementation of the state of law, can offer enough guarantees to ensure that the experiences described in the Rettig report will not be repeated. [end recording]

Gen. Matthei said that he spoke with the full support of the Corps of Air Force Generals. He also indicated that the Rettig Commission report cannot be analyzed and understood without referring to the serious political, social, and economic crisis that the country faced on 11 September 1973, a situation which is accurately described in the first chapter of the Rettig report under the section called Political Framework.

Matthei also said that he regrets—as he has always said—the loss of human life. He added that the civilian and military victims of this unfortunate period are the testimony of deep feeling within our consciences and represent an experience of pain for a nation which abandoned its system of coexistence and adopted the use of force.

Gen. Matthei concluded by saying that he hopes that, for the sake of our country and our children, a situation like this never happens again. He added that we should not merely regret, but that we should also learn lessons from our national grief. He said that we should pray that reason, generous dialogue, and harmony will lead us to solve our differences.

Matthei Remarks 'Very Important'

*PY0803210791 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 91*

[Text] The minister secretary general of government has said that Air Force Commander General Fernando Matthei's statement today is very important for Chile's national reconciliation. Enrique Correa said this today during a news conference at La Moneda Palace.

[Begin Correa recording] My first reaction after quickly reading his remarks is that he has made a very positive appraisal of the report. We greatly value that—after consultation with the Corps of Air Force Generals, as cited in his introduction—Gen. Matthei recognizes his responsibility and President Aylwin's efforts to achieve a reconciliation that will pave the way for Chile's projection into a brighter future. We greatly value his words. We consider this to be a very important step toward reconciliation. [end recording]

Minister Correa said that the government expects the other Armed Forces branches will issue similar responses

to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report. Asked if the government is not afraid that the Army, Navy, and Carabinero's answer could be harsher than that of the Air Force, Correa said that there are no indications of an institutional crisis in the country. He added that Chilean society has expressed its full support for the process and that this will be enough to deter any attempt to interrupt the democratic process.

Rojas on Matthei's Comments

*PY0903040091 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network
in Spanish 2200 GMT 8 Mar 91*

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas has labeled the reaction of the Chilean Air Force [FACH] to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report as reasonable, measured, and responsible. He said it is significant that the FACH is able to sort out the distinctions of certain problems, which are already known to the Chilean people and about which there are several opinions, such as the reasons for the institutional disruption and other matters. The FACH also analyzed the human rights violations carefully. Minister Rojas made this statement at La Moneda Palace.

[Begin Rojas recording] I think it is necessary at this time to keep issues separate and not to confuse matters. I think it is a very positive thing that this stance is supported by a branch of the Armed Forces. As a Chilean citizen, I am very satisfied with this judgment and the separation of the problems, because confusing the issues will not help to find the path of reconciliation. [end recording]

Asked about the reactions expected from the Army, Navy, and Carabineros, he said the Army is still analyzing the matter and that the generals will meet again next week. He added that they will announce their position in due time.

[Begin Rojas recording] Concerning Communique No. 1, I know that the country is aware that the Army generals reiterated their loyalty and unreserved respect for the position of the Army commander in chief. The country is also aware that the government has reiterated its position to respect the will of the Army commander in chief and existing constitutional rules. I also want to say that there is freedom of expression and freedom to ask the government questions in Chile, and we must respect these freedoms because they are constitutional rights. [end recording]

Rojas said it is not good to confuse the legitimate differences of opinion that social or political sectors may have, which could have institutional repercussions. He was alluding to Army Communique No. 1 and statements made by Socialist Party leaders on whether Pinochet should continue as Army commander in chief. He pointed out that modern democracies measure their increased levels of freedom and citizen participation through freedom of expression, opinion, and association and through the lessening of state participation. I do not

believe we want the opposite for Chile, with everything centralized in the government and the government held responsible for everything.

Concerning the Navy and the Carabineros, Rojas said the two institutions are analyzing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and that he expects them to announce their reactions in the next few days.

As for his visit to the United States, Rojas said this was a special opportunity for Chile to be received by the U.S. national defense sector and especially by the Defense Department, which was in charge of planning and conducting the war. It is important to learn about the experience gained, Rojas said, adding that the Chilean military mission will have an opportunity to get first-hand information on the subject. Concluding, Rojas noted that the main objective of the trip is to resume bilateral cooperation at the Defense Ministry level and between Armed Forces. He did not want to give any more details.

Pinochet, Army Continue Studying Rettig Report

PY0803212991 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet said at noon today: I am studying the report.

He thus answered reporters who wanted to know about the evaluation by the Corps of Army Generals of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report on violations of human rights during the military regime.

Gen. Pinochet only made a brief comment to reporters who tried to get his impression on the Rettig report. The Army Public Relations Department released via the Communications School their Communique No. 2 from the Corps of Army Generals who were meeting in the War School in La Reina district until a few moments ago.

The communique says that the Corps of Army Generals held a special meeting to evaluate the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission during which they thoroughly evaluated the report in the best spirit. The communique adds that considering the length, variety, and complexity of the issues included in the report, as well as the observations and preliminary conclusions, the Corps of Generals decided to continue to study it and to meet again soon on this report.

Signed: The Corps of Army Generals.

Aylwin Says Civil-Military Relations 'Positive'

PY1103032491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2233 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Santiago, 9 Mar (EFE)—Chilean President Patricio Aylwin said today that he is satisfied with the level of his government's relations with the Armed

Forces and added that these relations have undergone a "very positive" evolution since he came to power on 11 March 1990.

During an interview broadcast by Radio Chilena of Santiago on the occasion of his government's first anniversary, President Aylwin said he hopes this positive evolution "will continue to improve" until relations are completely normal.

The chief of state labelled as "very respectable and serious" the statement on 7 March by Air Force Commander General Fernando Matthei, who voiced his support for the reconciliation process promoted by the government and took responsibility for the actions of the Air Force under the military regime.

Aylwin commented that this attitude "is a contribution to national reconciliation" and asserted that the Army "had a right" to issue a public declaration like the one issued this week protesting the requests for the resignation of its commander in chief, General Augusto Pinochet.

Aylwin reiterated that he respects Pinochet's constitutional right to remain in his post until 1998 and added: "We have no intention of changing this."

When asked about a declaration issued this week by the Supreme Court in which the justices charge government officials with a state of "animosity" against the judicial branch, the Chilean president said he thought such an accusation was "clearly unfounded."

Aylwin added that if the justices enjoyed the calmness that characterizes mature men, they would realize that they have exaggerated somewhat; at the same time, he reiterated his intention to make some changes in the system for administering justice, a plan that enjoys a consensus in Chile.

Aylwin also disclosed that probably in May, he will propose new constitutional amendments that are designed to democratize the legislative branch, which means doing away with government-designate senators and modifying the Chilean regional administration.

Aylwin also said he will insist on the need for municipal reform that will allow the direct election of mayors and councilmen and he announced that he wishes to replace the current binomial [binominal] electoral system for a proportional representation system which, in his opinion, is more democratic.

The Chilean president labelled as "out of place and somewhat irresponsible" the rightist opposition statement that Chile runs the risk of institutional paralysis due to certain government attitudes.

Aylwin noted: "All institutions established by the Constitution currently function in Chile. Congress functions, and the courts administer justice freely; that is, the system works and nothing shows that it is in danger."

Aylwin said he will not replace any of his ministers after the first year of his government because he is "very happy" with his team and, in his opinion, the greatest achievement of this period has been the consensus on many important issues through the so-called "democracy of agreements."

When asked whether he had experienced any bitter moments since he came to power, Aylwin said that learning the contents of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report on the violations of human rights in Chile during the military regime had been "extremely painful."

Colombia

Government Accepts Bishops' Mediation With CNG

PA0903025491 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] On behalf of the government of Colombia, Government and Justice Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana—just a few minutes ago—accepted the offer of mediation of the Colombian Bishops' Conference, in negotiations with the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG].

[Begin De la Calle Lombana recording] Concerning the proposal by the Colombian Bishops' Conference to assist the government commission and the future commission of the CNG, the government announces that it has no objection, and finds it acceptable for this mediation—if accepted by the CNG—to be implemented. [end recording]

CNG Accepts Mediation

PA0903025691 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Through ELN [Army of National Liberation] Commander Father Manuel Perez, the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] today accepted the mediation of the Colombian Bishops' Conference to try to overcome the difficulties that have hindered direct dialogue with our government.

In a telephone conversation with newsmen from several media, the leader also announced that efforts are under way for the release of 40 soldiers and policemen that the CNG is holding.

The CNG again requested that the government demilitarize some areas of La Uribe Municipality. The government has repeatedly said that it is not willing to grant this request.

Army Readies Anti-Guerrilla Plans With Brazil

PA1103040691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0209 GMT
11 Mar 91

[Text] Bogota, 10 Mar (EFE)—It was officially reported today in Bogota that the Colombian and Brazilian authorities have prepared joint plans to stop the advance of the Communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which are trying to control the gold camps in the Amazon region located along the border between the two countries.

General Eddie Alberto Pallares, commander of the Colombian Army's 4th Division, and General Antenor de Santacruz, military commander of the Amazon region in Brazil, met on 9 March in Leticia, Colombia, to study the scope of the guerrilla raids.

According to the media in Bogota, the two commanders prepared joint anti-subversive plans, exchanged information about the situation that prevails in the zone, reviewed bilateral agreements on military cooperation, and prepared new proposals that will be presented to their respective governments.

The agreements they reached are intended to stop the FARC from crossing the border and to earn the trust of hundreds of Colombian miners and settlers who are trying to mine the gold lodes in Brazil, which would benefit the rebels.

The military officers' meeting occurred almost two weeks after approximately 40 FARC members raided Brazilian territory, resulting in the death of three Brazilian soldiers and seven Colombian guerrilla members, according to Army sources.

Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo said this week that the government will prepare joint plans with Brazil to stop the guerrilla groups from crossing the border.

Violence Leaves Congressman, 15 Others Dead

PA1003030491 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 0103 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] The region of Valle del Cauca has experienced a serious wave of violence over the past few hours. A total of 16 persons were killed, including Congressman Dario Aluma, in bloody incidents that took place in Cali and Buga. Our correspondent Maria Cristina Melo has the report.

[Begin recording] [Melo] As the euphoria had gripped everyone at the start of the soccer game between El Nacional and El Tachira, without speaking a word, three men opened fire on people in the area, not giving anyone a chance to react. It is important to recall that one of the victims was car importer Gustavo Zuniga Montano, brother of two persons who were killed last Tuesday in a similar incident in the southern part of Cali.

Also, at the Villa Colombia checkpoint, a few kilometers from the capital of Valle, the lifeless body of Lieutenant Pablo Pastran Moreno was found, with several bullet holes and clear signs of torture. The two attacks that have taken place over the past 24 hours in the capital of Valle del Cauca have left a total of 16 persons dead.

[Cali Mayor German Villegas] The theory that will be checked and confirmed is that it was a case of revenge, retaliation, a vendetta between organized crime groups. At this moment we are confiscating and seizing all weapons, whether the owners have permits or not. We do not think that it is advisable for people to be armed at this time. We strongly insist that the monopoly on force must rest with the state. [end recording]

Army General Says FARC Plans 'All Out War'

PA1003032991 Paris AFP in Spanish 0737 GMT
7 Mar 91

[Text] Bogota, 6 Mar (AFP)—FARC, the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia has a long-range plan intended to draw the country into an "all out war," Army General Humberto Correa said on 6 March.

The high-ranking officer said that the recent escalation of guerrilla activities directed against the economic infrastructure, is part of an organized plan to be implemented between 1990 and 1998. Correa commanded the military operation in December 1990 that dislodged FARC from its main camp at Uribe, in the southwest of Meta Department.

FARC, the Guevarist Army of National Liberation (ELN), and a small dissident group of the Maoist Popular Liberation Army (EPL) comprise the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG), which is responsible for the wave of terrorism that has shaken the country and caused damage officially estimated at \$380 million.

According to Correa, who presently commands the Army's 1st Division, the FARC, the oldest and largest guerrilla group in Colombia, is implementing the first phase of the plan. This phase—to be implemented between 1990 and 1992—includes the formation of 60 fronts [frentes] with 300 guerrillas in each front.

The first phase also calls for procuring of \$56 million which will come from ransoms collected in exchange for kidnapped cattlemen and businessmen. This money would then be used to purchase 10,000 rifles, 480 machine guns, 1,290 rocket launchers, 480 radios, six planes, two boats, 10 launches, and 100 pieces of light artillery.

The second phase of the subversive plan, to be carried out between 1992 and 1994, calls for a "recruitment" period aimed at increasing the number of fronts to 80 and troops to 400 per front.

During the third phase—from 1994 to 1996—16,000 rebels would unleash a guerrilla war while another 16,000 would remain in their respective fronts.

The last phase of the guerrilla's plan, to be implemented between 1996 and 1998, is to begin a total war or, if the offensive were to fail, a retreat.

During its on-going terrorist offensive, the CNG has said that it is ready to negotiate with the government of President Cesar Gaviria, but asks that the talks take place in La Uribe and that the army withdraw from the area. The government rejected this request and proposed that the talks be held abroad.

EPL's Gutierrez Outlines Political Program

PA0803121891 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
4 Mar 91 p 7a

[Text] Almost 80,000 people gathered at a political rally at 1900 in one of the most strife-torn areas of the country to hear and see the former guerrillas, serving as an indication of the new functions that the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] will have to assume.

The event occurred in Apartado on Friday, 1 March, with the top leaders of the former rebel group such as Bernardo Gutierrez and Antonio Navarro Wolff—who was present at the arms-turnover ceremony and who later accompanied Gutierrez at the public rally—in attendance.

At the end of the event, Gutierrez said: "Our responsibilities are now different." The truth is that the challenge goes beyond filling a public plaza—which is easy if one considers the fact that the guerrillas are something of a novelty.

Tomorrow, in what it has described as the main event, the EPL will hold a rally in Medellin, during which it will announce the guidelines of the political party that the former rebel group will establish. All former commanders will be present, as well as municipal and departmental authorities.

The key challenge will be to maintain the group's popularity by means of a political platform that will allow the group to consolidate its ranks, and to win over that sector of the population that is traditionally skeptical and abstentionist.

It is on this point that the EPL has concentrated its effort for the past several months.

Bernardo Gutierrez, who explained to EL TIEMPO the program and ideological bases of the political plan, heads the project.

Although the EPL continues to retain the leftist profile that has characterized the movement when it was an armed group, it now shows nothing of the orthodoxy and dogmatism that formerly set it apart.

Marxist ideas are present, according to Gutierrez, however, these ideas are currently used as a method of analysis and study to reorganize the country and not as justification for the use of force.

"We reevaluated the teachings of Father Astete, to which we had applied Marxism. That did great harm to the country and the left. Proof of this is that the left is no longer an alternative nor a solution," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez said: "We now seek to work in order to achieve a more just society, and to create a pluralistic society and system. That is not communism. Moreover, we realize that while capitalism is in crisis, the socialist systems also failed to resolve problems."

The EPL also realizes that the social struggle does not necessarily have to have a political banner, or be the exclusive property of a particular sector. This, among others, was one of the factors that led the so-called pressure movements to bureaucratize their operations.

"We believe that a new phase in the social struggle must be created in a democratic and civilian context, with its own dynamics and without any political labels. At present there is no homogeneous working class. There continue to be social confrontations, but pluralism is what is required in the new reality," Gutierrez said.

The objective pursued by the EPL is the construction of a new institutional system, based on the understanding that it is being created for peace, not for war.

"At this point," he explained, "we are taking into account the need for referenda, plebiscites, and popular consultations as the basis of a tolerant state."

One of the points that shows the 180-degree turn that the EPL has taken in less than two years, is when Gutierrez speaks of private enterprise and the country's political class.

In the past, he considered private property and politicians as his irreconcilable enemies, but today he does not even question their eventual disappearance. [sentence as published]

He said: "Our reservations in that regard are as follows: Far from wanting to do away with those things, what we need today is to promote industrial development in Colombia, because I believe that this would help us to be less dependent. We need to have the national wealth directed toward social benefits."

On the subject of traditional political leaders, Gutierrez said that the country has been divided for a long time and has become too big for politicians. "In that regard," he said, "we think it is important to uproot the country's vices; that is, to end patronage, corruption, and caciquism."

As for the Armed Forces, Gutierrez said that they are also part of Colombia, and while he fought them in the past, "now we must work together."

Many of these initiatives are still only on paper, but they will be the basis on which the Hope, Peace, and Freedom [Esperanza, Paz, y Libertad—EPL] group will present itself to the country, alongside, obviously, the M-19 Democratic Alliance and Antonio Navarro Wolff.

Ecuador

Indians Occupy Petroamazonas Oil Facilities

PA0803224691 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2049 GMT
8 Mar 91

[Text] Quito, 8 mar (DPA)—At least eight oil wells, in addition to bridges, roads, and other industrial facilities, were seized today by Indian groups that live in the Amazon jungle in Ecuador, to support a series of demands presented to the Quito government.

The seizure of the wells, which was carried out peacefully, has interrupted production at several camps. Because of this, "the pumping of crude has decreased remarkably," according to Wilson Pastor, manager of the Petroamazonas state consortium.

The Indians belong to the Francisco de Orellana and Joya de Sacha communities in Napo Province, in central-eastern Ecuador, in the middle of the Amazon jungle. "We will remain here until the authorities listen to us," the Indians warned through a communiqué.

Bridges and roads leading to the oil facilities have been closed by picketing demonstrators, natives of the region who have repeatedly expressed their objections to an "insatiable white society's" presence in the jungle, especially the large oil companies, because of the environmental deterioration that they cause.

Official sources have not yet reacted to the takeover of the oil wells and facilities. The takeover was initially reported by the Quito newspaper HOY.

In June 1990 President Rodrigo Borja's social democratic government initiated dialogue with the Indian organizations, based on a 16-point list of petitions. The dialogue was interrupted in November by the Indian leaders and has not yet resumed despite the mediation of various sectors, especially the Catholic Church.

Ecuador, which has been a member of OPEC since 1973, has a daily production of 285,000 barrels of oil, the exportation of which constitutes 52.25 percent of its foreign exchange income.

EFE Reports Strike Details

PA1003230391 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1951 GMT
10 Mar 91

[Text] Quito, 10 Mar (EFE)—According to reports, trenches dug by strikers along roads leading to oil wells in Napo Province, in the Amazon, give the impression of being the result of intense bombing.

The residents of the cantons of Francisco de Orellana and Joya de Sacha, 250 km southeast of Quito, have now been on strike for 11 days. During this period they have seized at least six oil installations to demand a variety of basic facilities.

In addition to this dispute, the country's doctors and teachers have been on strike since February and local governments have reported that within the next few hours more strikes will be declared.

Army helicopters yesterday flew over the Amazon region where the strikes are taking place. According to reports not confirmed by government authorities, there have been clashes between Indians and soldiers.

Daniel Pauquer, leader of the strike committee, has said that one person has died and five others have been wounded as a result of clashes. This has been denied by Government Minister Cesar Verduga.

Oil production has dropped by up to 20,000 barrels per day since 28 February when the strike began to demand rural roads, drinking water, electricity, sewer systems, and other basic services that do not exist in a region that produces 200,000 of the 300,000 barrels of oil produced each day by the country, which has been a member of OPEC since 1973.

The wells of Auca, Culebra, Yulebra, Sacha, Yuca, and Cononaco are in the hands of strikers and it is believed that other wells are also in the hands of strikers.

Juan Reyes, manager of the Petroecuador-Exxon consortium, has said: The situation is "critical" and the losses that have resulted from the drop in production amount to almost \$2 million.

The region's main oil fields, which are being exploited by a consortium in which the multinational U.S. enterprise Exxon participates, are being guarded by soldiers and "have suffered no harm and production is normal," according to Wilson Pastor, manager of the state enterprise Petroecuador.

Quito morning newspapers today listed the many needs of the region and their special correspondents have confirmed that there is a lack of health equipment and personnel, that conditions at the only drinking water plant are unhealthy, and that there are no electricity or telecommunications.

Elsewhere, the 2,300 doctors employed by the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute and the almost 100,000 teachers of the National Union of Teachers have been on strike since February.

Local Guayas Province governments have called for strikes along the central Ecuadorian coastline, where a majority of the country's 10 million people live.

President Rodrigo Borja said yesterday that his government is facing "everywhere the conspiracy of laziness and strikes."

Peru

State of Emergency Ordered in Cusco Provinces

PY1003025091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2200 GMT
9 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Lima, 9 Mar (EFE)—The Peruvian Government today declared a 60-day state of emergency in four terrorist-stricken provinces of Cusco Department. Thus, 60 percent of the Peruvian people are now affected by measures restricting their individual freedom.

According to a decree signed by President Alberto Fujimori and published by the official gazette EL PERUANO, the following provinces will now be under a state of emergency: Canas, Chumbivilcas, Espinar, and Canchis.

The measure, which places the four Cusco provinces under military rule and suspends individual guarantees, was prompted by the escalation of acts of subversion in Peru. [passage omitted]

ILD President To Continue Supporting Fujimori

PY1003221091 Lima RTP Television Network
in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Hernando de Soto, president of the Freedom and Democracy Institute [ILD], has said that the executive branch's initiative in partially publishing the draft bill designed to democratize government decisions was a positive move because it will prompt the necessary debate to allow the approval of a consensus law.

De Soto disclosed that during an ILD meeting, 45 new proposals were submitted for the original draft; of these, 12 were accepted. Regarding his relationship with the president of the Republic, De Soto reiterated that he will continue to support the president as long as necessary.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What will become of the ILD project to democratize government decisions if the government has made another decision? Does this mean there will be two projects?

[De Soto] Well, yes. The idea is that freedom means being able to choose. Therefore, the fact that the government has come up with an alternative to our project is great. Moreover, once we start the debate you will see that our own project will undergo changes after talks with the people; we could end up with two or three different projects. Let me tell you that during a recent debate at the ILD, over 45 proposals for amendment were submitted for our own project. Of these 45 proposals—although this may be arbitrary—our technicians believe 12 represent real improvements.

[Reporter] Is the ILD draft better than the government's proposal?

[De Soto] As they stand now, undoubtedly. Well, you can compare them. They have both been published in EL PERUANO. [passage omitted] [end recording]

*** Terrorism's Effect on Electrical Grid Noted**

91SM0196B Lima PERU ECONOMICO in Spanish
Jan 91 p 11

[Text] The electrical energy subsector is one of those most affected by terrorism. To date, terrorist activities have destroyed 1,146 high-tension towers, causing losses to the interlinked Center-North system equivalent to \$100 million, in addition to requiring an the investment of some \$10 million in protective measures. According to an expert in this field, it is estimated that the cost of these attacks to the Peruvian economy falls between \$1 billion and \$2.5 billion. On the other hand, officials in the sector say that given the nature of production and distribution of electrical energy, it is almost impossible to protect the entire existing infrastructure. In this connection, they add, the only way to safeguard the installations is to pursue an effective antisubversive strategy. If this is not done, further investments and improvements in the sector will serve little purpose.

Electricity Rates		
(in cents on the dollar per kilowatt hour)		
Consumption Sector	August 1990	December 1990
Domestic	2.41	3.10
Industrial	2.73	3.54
Commercial	6.41	7.01
General use	5.81	6.28
Agricultural	4.20	4.62
Public lighting	4.88	6.70
Average	3.21	3.99

*** Poll Reveals Public Perception on Terrorism**

91SM0196C Lima PERU ECONOMICO in Spanish
Jan 91 p 16

[Text] Terrorist attacks and blackouts have created an atmosphere of anxiety and fear the terrorists are seeking in 78 percent of the citizens of Lima surveyed by APOYO. The result is the feeling of revulsion 72 percent of those interviewed said they feel toward terrorist attacks. However, among a worrisome 20 percent of those questioned, terrorist acts lead only to indifference (11 percent) or empathy (9 percent). Those who believe that subversion has not succeeded in creating the atmosphere of terror are found in the highest (18 percent) and lowest (22 percent) socioeconomic levels. Those who are indifferent or who empathize are found mainly in the lowest stratum, with 14 percent and 12 percent, respectively. As to the future of the terrorist phenomenon, 39 percent of those surveyed believe that it will increase, while 22 percent believe that it will decline and 32 percent believe it will remain the same. However, people do not see a great potential for terrorist organizations. Only 8 percent believe that the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] will "triumph." Notable in this group of pessimists are those on the highest socioeconomic level, where 16 percent see a triumph for the Sendero Luminoso as a possibility, and 20 percent say the same for the MRTA. In the opinion of 61 percent of the people distributed throughout the other strata, the terrorist organizations will be defeated (35 percent) or will abandon the armed struggle (26 percent).